

Hafa Adai!

IPI employees, patrons OK'd to wear masks. PAGE 3
CUC lower FAC due to falling fuel prices worldwide. PAGE 6

75¢

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State of emergency extended

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth remains under a State of Significant Emergency, following acting governor Arnold I. Palacios' issuance of an executive order last Friday that extended the original emergency declaration.

The state of significant emergency will remain in effect for 30 days, unless terminated by the governor.

Torres first issued the emergency declaration on Jan. 29, 2020, and was effective for 30 days. The continued declaration of the state of significant emergency is to sustain the established response, quarantine, and preventive containment measures concerning the coronavirus, or COVID-19, outbreak.

To date, 64 countries and territories around the world have been affected by COVID-19, with a total of 86,033 confirmed COVID-19 cases, and

See STATE on Page 4

Outbreak starts to look more like worldwide economic crisis

By ADAM GELLER, PAUL WISEMAN
and CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—The coronavirus outbreak began to look more like a worldwide economic crisis

Friday as anxiety about the infection emptied shops and amusement parks,

RELATED NEWS

■ Virus outbreak batters economies, raises fear of spread.

PAGE 13

canceled events, cut trade and travel and dragged already slumping financial markets even lower.

More employers told their workers to stay home, and officials locked down neighborhoods and closed

See OUTBREAK on Page 4



COPE NORTH 20

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Todd Dozier, 5th Air Force vice commander; Royal Australian Air Force Air Commodore (O-7) Martin Smith, Combat Support Group temporary commander; and Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force) Lt. Gen. Shin-ichi Kaneko, Air Support Command commander, read an inscription on a World War II memorial dedicated to the 505th Bombardment Group on Tinian last Feb. 19, 2020. The monument is dedicated to "those young Americans of the 505th who survived the war and those who gave their lives here in pursuit of victory. Believing deeply in the value of living as free people in a democratic society, they fulfilled with honor and pride their duty to their country, supporting the cause of freedom throughout the world." For the first time, three general officers representing the U.S., RAAF and JASDF visited Saipan, Tinian, and Rota together.

STAFF SGT. CURT BEACH

WOMEN ACHIEVERS

March is International Women's Month. To mark this occasion, Saipan Tribune will be publishing this week, starting today and culminating on Friday, a series of stories called "Women of Excellence."

Yes, there are many women achievers in the CNMI who deserve to be featured in this series but, unfortunately, we will be unable to feature them all due to the lack of space. What this series intends is to provide a mere glimpse, in honor of the role they play in holding up half the sky and in moving the Commonwealth forward.

Today, we focus on two women leaders in our community: Marcia "Ruri" E. Ayuyu and Lauri B. Ogumoro. Read their stories on PAGE 7.

'Travel authorization still needed'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A CW-1 worker in the CNMI who is granted permanent resident status would still be required to obtain travel authorization before he or she re-enters the CNMI upon traveling out of the Commonwealth, according to immigration lawyer Janet H. King

last week.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry regarding the Long-Term Residents Relief Act, King said the CNMI resident status only grants status that leads to an Employment Authorization Document or EAD.

For those who are CW-1 workers—formally referred to as Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker—

he or she will get an EAD and the employers would not be bound to them as CW-1 workers, specifically the U.S. Department of Labor prevailing wage that is necessary for obtaining a Temporary Labor Certification when applying for CW-1 employees.

King said U.S. citizens will then be competing for work with CNMI



King

resident status holders who have EADs, because U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has no process in place that would require CNMI employers to prioritize qualified, available U.S. citizens first before offering work to foreign workers with EADs.

In explaining one of the listed See TRAVEL on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Eighteen members of the Pacific Century Fellows Class of 2019 graduate last Feb. 27.

PAGE 2



NATION

A man died of COVID-19 in Washington, making it the first death in the United States.

PAGE 14



WORLD

Italian officials fear a new virus could do more damage to the industry than the Sept. 11 attacks.

PAGE 16



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Local



Eighteen members of the Pacific Century Fellows Class of 2019 have their picture taken after being presented with their graduation plaques last Feb. 27 at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

18 Fellows join list of PCF alumni

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Eighteen members of the Pacific Century Fellows Class of 2019 were presented their graduation plaques last Feb. 27 at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

The Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter is a program established by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation through TanHoldings, with the purpose of developing young leaders in the community. Each PCF participant is given an opportunity to study in a field they want to pursue, such as politics, tourism, etc. so that they can be mentored by professionals in their chosen field. After nine months in the PCF program, the participants will then have achieved skills to incorporate in their lives and their jobs.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, PCF-Marianas Chapter president Jerry Tan said that, as a resident of the CNMI, he sees a lot of potential opportunities that the CNMI has. "At the end of the day, it is really about the people who are going to make things happen," he added.

Tan noted that local leaders have to be careful with what they plan for the Commonwealth, because the islands don't have unlimited resources and it is very important that the people of the CNMI come together and talk about what they want the future of the Commonwealth to be like. And, together with the past PCF Fellows, it's possible for the CNMI to reach its full potential and beyond, he added.

"As long as we can encourage everyone to stay involved, stay engaged, and participate in what's going on...the Commonwealth can move forward," Tan added.

The 18 new PCF alumni are Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension & Educational Services extension aide Lorenza Aldan; Precinct 4 Rep. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan); press secretary Kevin Bautista; NMC director of Enrollment Services Manny Castro; former CNMI Public School System director of finance Christopher Ching; Koblerville Elementary School teacher Bonny Cruz; Kanoa Resort guest relations manager Ricardo Cruz Jr.; Do-Como Pacific CNMI marketing coordinator Clinton Dela

Cruz; NMC early intervention counselor Kaelani Demapan; Xerox Corp. executive Nola Hix; Tinian Mayor's Office coordinating officer Alexis Hofschneider; Shirley's Coffee Shop operations manager Noelle Macario; Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s Non-Communicable Disease Bureau acting administrator Amber-Lynn Mendiola; KES teacher Le'ah Murphy; CHCC dialysis unit social worker Chrislaine Pangelinan; Assistant U.S. Attorney Benjamin Petersburg; Commonwealth Casino Commission financial auditor Michael Sheu; and Kagman High School principal Leila Staffler.

In an interview before her graduation, Babauta said that joining the PCF gave her a different perspective of the issues facing the Commonwealth—studying and seeing different events and learning from them.

"It was such a great experience! This program is also a great way to expand your network, meet a lot of people and just have great exposure and ideas. This program also helped prepared myself to becoming an Obama leader!" she added. Babauta, together with Samantha Birmingham-Babauta, were recently selected to participate in the first annual inaugural cohort for the Obama Foundation Leaders: Asia-Pacific program in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from Dec. 10, 2019 to Dec. 14, 2019.

One of the guest speakers in last Thursday's graduation was Maisie B. Tenorio, who has helped many women, men, and children through her advocacy efforts and in her role as a founding member of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. She quoted an ancient Iroquois philosophy that, in deliberations, one must consider the impact of decisions on the next seven generations. Tenorio gave a motivational speech about how the graduates of PCF have the potential to change the future of the CNMI.

"Let's not wait for the next generation to make every single inch of the CNMI beautiful and glorious," Tenorio said. "Let's light their [future generations'] way if we best intentionally and meaningfully in our children and they will experience triumph born

See ALUMNI on Page 4



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IPI employees, patrons OK'd to wear masks

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission has issued a waiver to allow the employees and casino gaming patrons of the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to wear surgical masks as a safety measure due to the coronavirus outbreak.

In an interview last Thursday, CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said they don't order IPI employees and its gaming patrons to wear surgical masks, but have allowed them to do so.

Not hats, though. Deleon Guerrero said they cannot allow employees and patrons to wear hats because of the very detailed surveillance system in



Deleon Guerrero

place in the casino.

He said it is his understanding that the coronavirus threat has already closed down 41 casinos in Macau. The coronavirus first arose in Wuhan, China, and has rapidly spread worldwide.

Deleon Guerrero said that Macau first started by requiring all employees and patrons to wear masks. Macau then realized that's probably not going to be effective enough, so they closed down all 41 casinos, as per regulations, he said, adding that Macau has already lifted those restrictions and allowed the casinos to re-open a few days ago.

"And it's my understanding that some have opened and some have voluntarily decided not to open," he said.

Deleon Guerrero pointed out that, as per many health advisories, there's a greater chance of spreading the virus whenever there is a large number of people congregating in one confined location, like in a casino.

He said CCC actually has a policy that employees and

patrons are not supposed to wear mask or hats or anything but the CCC gave IPI patrons and employees and CCC em-

ployees this exemption and allow the surgical masks as they think it's prudent to do something to make sure CCC

and IPI's own staff would not contract the virus.

"So that's an issue that we're saying, 'Well, this is...a

safety issue, it's a common-sense issue.' So we did issue a waiver to allow people to protect themselves," Deleon

Guerrero said.

He said only surgical masks are allowed, not other types of masks.

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PSS salary to be released today

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Public School System personnel are set to receive their salaries today after a three-day delay due a late transfer by the CNMI government.

According to a source, PSS received its fund transfer from the central government required to make a biweekly payroll only last Saturday.

Fate of federally funded workers still up in the air

By **IVA MAURIN**
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REPORTER

As government employees brace for a new wave of work-hour cuts that will take effect on March 15, the hope for federally funded employees to be exempted from the austerity measure remains.

In an earlier interview, Finance Secretary David Atalig revealed that all departments have asked for exemptions, mainly from federal programs, and at that time, none are being honored, adding that it is a policy of the administration.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) questions that policy and urges the administration to reconsider. "Why cut federally funded salaries, disrupt critical federally funded programs, and jeopardize future federal grants, when we absolutely do not have to?" Sablan asked. "Wouldn't it make more sense to keep that money circu-

PSS finance reportedly immediately drafted and authorized the bank transfer but, due to the time zone difference with financing lending institutions outside the CNMI and the late bank transaction, net payroll allotments will not be posted in bank accounts until today.

In other news, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, who reportedly had a heart attack last Friday

evening, was released from the Commonwealth Health Center last Saturday afternoon.

In a statement, Ada said his vitals are back to normal but full recovery would take another two weeks.

"The power of prayer has allowed me to be discharged from the hospital. My vitals are back to normal and I'm good to go but recovery time is two weeks. Meanwhile, I have to see a cardiologist and figure out options. Again, thank you so much for your

lating in the economy, continue to deliver the public services that are fully funded by federal grants, and avoid having to return much-needed federal dollars to the granting agencies?"

The issue was also briefly discussed during the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs Committee meeting Friday at the House of Representatives' chamber on Capital Hill.

Committee chair Rep. Luis John Castro (R-Saipan) raised concerns on the possible adverse effects the austerity measure would have on federally-funded positions and programs in the long run.

Rep. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan) said at the meeting that, in his discussion with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, they were informed that, while salaries are not affected for federally funded employees under austerity, it will affect work hours.

Camacho believes that one of the reasons for the implementation of

the 16-hour work-hour cut on these employees is work stations, which would be closed during austerity.

"Are we [going to] open our buildings for four to five people when we are trying to implement cost-saving [measures]? I do understand that the grants will be put on jeopardy but we also have to look at the flip side," Camacho added.

Sablan noted at the meeting that there isn't a "one-size, fits-all sledgehammer approach" that the CNMI could take in how to preserve these federal dollars and keep them circulating in the economy.

"Also, even for those offices that are partially locally funded, partially federally funded, I know that there is a way we could actually keep those offices open, or one office open, so at least somebody is there who has actually been funded by federal grants," Sablan said. "And maybe, we don't have to shut down the entire government."

OUTBREAK

From Page 1

schools. The wide-ranging efforts to halt the spread of the illness threatened jobs, paychecks and profits.

"This is a case where in economic terms the cure is almost worse than the disease," said Jacob Kirkegaard, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. "When you quarantine cities ... you lose economic activity that you're not going to get back."

The list of countries touched by the illness climbed to nearly 60 as Mexico, Belarus, Lithuania, New Zealand, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, Iceland and the Netherlands reported their first cases. More than 83,000 people worldwide have contracted the illness, with deaths topping 2,800.

China, where the outbreak began in December, has seen a slowdown in new infections and on Saturday morning reported 427 new cases

over the past 24 hours along with 47 additional deaths. The city at the epicenter of the outbreak, Wuhan, accounted for the bulk of both.

New cases in mainland China have held steady at under 500 for past four days, with almost all of them in Wuhan and its surrounding Hubei province.

With the number of discharged patients now greatly exceeding those of new arrivals, Wuhan now has more than 5,000 spare beds in 16 temporary treatment centers, Ma Xiaowei, director of the National Health Commission, told a news conference in Wuhan on Friday.

South Korea, the second hardest hit country, on Saturday morning reported 594 new cases, the highest daily jump since confirming its first patient in late January. Emerging clusters in Italy and in Iran, which has had 34 deaths and 388 cases, have led to infections of people in other countries. France and Germany were also seeing increases, with doz-

ens of infections.

The head of the World Health Organization on Friday announced that the risk of the virus spreading worldwide was "very high," citing the "continued increase in the number of cases and the number of affected countries."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged all governments to "do everything possible to contain the disease."

"We know containment is possible, but the window of opportunity is narrowing," the U.N. chief told reporters in New York.

The economic ripples have already reached around the globe.

Stock markets around the world plunged again Friday. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones index took yet another hit, closing down nearly 360 points. The index has dropped more than 14% from a recent high, making this the market's worst week since 2008, during the global financial crisis.

Relief Act covers only those 1,000 or so people who have been granted humanitarian or administrative parole.

Last year, President Trump signed Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) Long-Term Residents Relief Act, Public Law 116-24.

Sablan said that act converts about 1,000 people living under administrative parole into residents with a permanent, legal status in the Marianas.

Last week, the House of Representatives passed Sablan's H.R. 560, granting permanent status in the Marianas to foreign investors originally admitted to the Commonwealth under local immigration law.

Sablan said H.R. 560 would also

grant permanent status in the Marianas to a small group of foreign workers, some of whom have been in the Marianas for 40 years.

With the passage of H.R. 560, many long-term foreign workers are now considering whether they should just wait for the Senate's approval and Trump's subsequent enactment of that bill into law, or just apply for permanent resident status under the Long-term Residents Relief Act.

The application period for those seeking the new CNMI long-term resident status opened last Feb. 19. Eligible aliens will have 180 days to apply for the new status.

prayers and time. I pray for peace for PSS," he said.

This setback has resulted in the injunction against the central government that three of two Board of Education members voted to be put on hold until Ada is well enough to read and authorize the lawsuit.

During a BOE special board meeting last week, PSS finance director Kimo Rosario said PSS is still operating at its previous budget level which he said is not a good idea.

PSS' original budget for fiscal year 2020 was \$37.7 million. Due to the

economic downturn following the outbreak of the coronavirus, the central government implemented across-the-board budget cut, slashing PSS' fiscal year 2020 budget to \$27 million.

However, three of the five elected members of BOE rejected the PSS management's austerity-measure proposal, and instead agreed to immediately file an injunction against the central government.

Rosario stated that without the austerity measure, PSS would incur a \$4 million deficit by the end of the fiscal year.

port to the governor and/or the lieutenant governor.

STATE

From Page 1

2,942 recorded deaths.

"COVID-19 poses a significant and imminent threat of harm to the community, environment and people of the CNMI and this emergency declaration is issued in order to respond, quarantine and ensure the prevention of or containment of COVID-19 in the CNMI," Palacios said in Executive Order 2020-021.

Under the extended declaration, Palacios instructed the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., Commonwealth Ports Authority, the CNMI Customs Division, and the Marianas Visitors Authority to undertake immediate emergency COVID-19 containment measures.

"This declaration is necessary to protect the health and safety of our children, our senior citizens, businesses, and all other CNMI residents and visitors," the order stated.

Directives

Under the state of significant emergency, CHCC is to coordinate with CPA, MVA, Customs, and other government agencies to develop and implement protocols, quarantine measures, and increased monitoring and controls at all airports and seaports in the CNMI, as to screening all arriving travelers, passengers, and cargo for COVID-19.

This may include bolstering staff and resources at airports and seaports to screen all arrivals from Japan and South Korea, as well as implementing COVID-19 surveillance activities at hotels, bed and breakfasts, and other forms of lodging for tourists.

CPA and MVA have also been tasked to coordinate efforts for the repatriation of tourists stranded in the CNMI.

Moreover, the secretary of Finance and the special assistant for Management and Budget have been directed to continue monitoring the fiscal impact of the suspension of flights from China, and the reduction of flights from Korea, on the fiscal year 2020 budget and to provide a weekly re-

Safety measures

The administration has been keeping a tight watch on the CNMI borders, to prevent the virus from coming into the islands, especially given that the CNMI's main tourism market, China, South Korea, and Japan, all fall under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's alert level due to the countries' high number of COVID-19 cases.

Torres' chief of staff, Angel Demapan, said that tourists are dwindling down, with passenger load factors severely decreased due to the greater impact of the virus on the three countries, and that there are almost no arrivals of containers from affected countries at CNMI seaports.

As an added safety measure, the CPA is procuring a full body scanner that could detect thermal body temperature of people entering the CNMI. This is on top of the ongoing screening and monitoring of inbound passengers at airports and all ports of entry.

Last Jan. 31, President Donald J. Trump issued a proclamation suspending entry of all aliens who have been to China, excluding Hong Kong and Macau, into the United States, during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the U.S., subject to certain exceptions.

Prior to Trump's declaration, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, last Jan. 29, already issued Executive Order 2020-01, placing the CNMI under a state of significant emergency, in relation to the new coronavirus. A day after, the International Health Regulations Committee of the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency of international concern.

The government has been engaging with federal partners, participating in conference calls with the White House administration and the National Governors Association, with CHCC also in contact with the CDC, to maximize all efforts in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

To date, the CNMI remains coronavirus-free.

seven classes of CNMI Fellows.

Hannemann said to the graduates, "You are living proof that the answers can come right from this place [CNMI] and I'm happy to be a part of you."

According to one of the graduates, Staffler, she wants to use what she has learned to help her students, and everyone else, to engage more in different civic activities. *(With Kri-
zel Tuazon)*

TRAVEL

From Page 1

categories for an alien worker to be eligible for Long-Term Residents Relief Act, King said that if a foreign worker were an "immediate relative" of a U.S. citizen—a spouse, child, or parent of a U.S. citizen—on Nov. 27, 2011, then he or she is included in one of the qualifying categories that would be able to go on to the next set of qualifications for the CNMI resident status application, Form I-955.

Saipan Tribune learned that many foreign workers are still asking whether the Long-Term Residents

ALUMNI

From Page 2

from our trauma."

Also present was PCF founder and Honolulu former mayor Mufi Hannemann who started the PCF program in Hawaii in 1997; the PCF Marianas Chapter started back in 2014.

So far, there have been a total of

Cope North 20



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, center, poses for a photo with visitors from the U.S., Royal Australian Air Force and Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force) during Cope North 20 on Saipan last Feb. 19, 2020.

STAFF SGT. CURT BEACH



U.S. Air Force Maj. Ryan Kiggins assigned to the 736th Security Forces Squadron, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, directs Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force) airmen during Cope North 20 humanitarian assistance/disaster relief operations at Camp Baker on Tinian last Feb. 19, 2020.

STAFF SGT. CURT BEACH



Royal Australian Air Force Air Commodore Martin Smith, left, Combat Support Group temporary commander, Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force) Lt. Gen. Shinichi Kaneko, middle, Air Support Command commander, and U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Todd Dozier, 5th Air Force vice commander; pose for a photo in front of a Koku Jieitai C-2 during Cope North 20 on Rota in the CNMI last Feb. 19, 2020. This was the first time three general officers from U.S., RAAF and JASDF have ever been to Rota together.

STAFF SGT. CURT BEACH



U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Todd Dozier, 5th Air Force vice commander; Royal Australian Air Force Air Commodore (O-7) Martin Smith, Combat Support Group temporary commander; and Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force) Lt. Gen. Shinichi Kaneko, Air Support Command commander, and other distinguished visitors witness a historic World War II Japanese fuel drum storage on Tinian last Feb. 19, 2020. Two storage bunkers were cut into a coral hill, enclosed in massive concrete shells and protected with steel plate doors. This structure was ignited sometime in the first days of the American invasion in 1944. The fire was so intense that a nearby battalion of Marines was forced to take a different position. For the first time, three general officers representing the U.S., RAAF and JASDF visited this historic site together.

STAFF SGT. CURT BEACH



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Christine Ebio assigned to the 18th Medical Group, Kadena Air Base, Japan, directs a Humvee for a patient transport during a Cope North 20 mass casualty exercise on Rota in the CNMI last Feb 20, 2020. Service members from the U.S., Royal Australian Air force, and Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force) honed their Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief skills by providing emergency medical care for simulated patients.

STAFF SGT. CURT BEACH



Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force) Lt. Gen. Shinichi Kaneko, left, Air Support Command commander, speaks with Royal Australian Air Force Group Capt. Mark Larter, Cope North 20 Multi-National Task Force commander, during CN20 humanitarian assistance/disaster relief operations at Camp Baker on Tinian last Feb. 19, 2020.

STAFF SGT. CURT BEACH



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, meets with visitors from the U.S., Royal Australian Air Force and Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force) during Cope North 20 on at Saipan last Feb. 19, 2020.

STAFF SGT. CURT BEACH

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CUC lowers FAC due to falling fuel prices worldwide

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. that there has been a de-

crease in the average international fuel prices, which will affect the fuel adjustment charge. As a result, the cur-

rent FAC rate of \$0.18803 per kilowatt-hour has decreased to \$0.16635 per kWh effective March 1, 2020.

This means residential customers who use 500 kWh of power per month will pay approximately \$10.84 less in

their monthly billing.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC electric kWh rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This base rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust (up or down) the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Plaits Singapore

monthly pricing equals or exceeds a 4.5% differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

CUC first instituted the levelized energy adjustment clause in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the electric rate. (PR)

CPA board approves RFP to develop Echo Dock

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors approved last week the issuance of a request for proposals to develop Echo Dock in Lower Base.

During the CPA's board meeting at the Port of Saipan's conference room, the board agreed to leave it up to the winning bidder to decide whether or not to sublease a portion of Echo Dock.

In a later interview, CPA board chair Kimberly King-Hinds said that, with the board's go-signal for the RFP, a winning bidder will be selected to develop the dock, depending on whatever proposals they submit.

King-Hinds said it's open to



Commonwealth Ports Authority Board Seaports Facilities Committee chair Pete P. Reyes, left, and CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio get some fresh air at the Port of Saipan during a break in the board's regular meeting last week. Seen behind them is the Echo Dock in Lower Base. The CPA board has approved a request for proposals to develop Echo Dock, where a restaurant had operated before.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

the scope of concession that includes making improvements at the dock and removing some of the eyesores that are currently there. That would

include a moored dilapidated ship that's just leaning on the side of the port.

King-Hinds said a former restaurant at the site could be

opened for the community. The chair said the RFP will allow for the improvement of that specific area.

At the meeting, the directors deliberated whether or not to allow for the winning bidder to sublease certain parts of Echo Dock.

"There were some discussions whether or not the winner of the bid can sublease that specific portion. But it was the board's decision to basically leave it up to the winning bidder to be able to make the best business decision," she said.

Last August, CPA board's Seaport Facilities Committee chair Pete Reyes told the board that it's troubling to see zero business activity at the Echo Dock.

Reyes disclosed last week that two companies want to lease the property.

Bill to remove hunting permit need for feral pigs in Guam

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—License requirements and fees to hunt feral pigs in Guam are expected to be removed under a bill that would reclassify the animals as an unprotected species.

The bill was introduced Friday by Sen. Clynt Ridgell who said removing restrictions would allow the community to develop solutions to controlling the feral pig population, Pacific Daily News reported.

"The protected species law is made to ensure the survival of our native animals

and birds, not wild pigs that damage crops and even sometimes attack and hurt people," Ridgell said. "With this bill, I hope to empower the community to address this as both a public safety issue and an environmental issue."

Feral pigs are not native to Guam, Ridgell said. Not only have they been found to be hostile toward people and destroy property, but they are also known to eat and destroy the crops of many of our local farmers, he said.

The feral pigs have been

blamed for ruining manicured lawns, damaging farms and vegetable gardens, chasing after pet animals and their owners, and harming native species of plants.

Allowing residents to hunt feral pigs freely and safely will help reduce the animals' population, said Piti Mayor Jesse Alig, whose village continues to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in trapping feral pigs.

"In my discussions with the Department of Agriculture, I have found that this

bill will work in tandem with their efforts, which includes plans to hold a pig hunting derby in the coming months," Ridgell said.

The department has trapped about 450 feral pigs in the last year, federal agency officials said.

"Feral swine are an invasive species, and vectors of many diseases that may negatively impact humans," officials said, referring to leptospirosis, brucellosis, Japanese encephalitis virus, and toxoplasmosis.

Wanted: Leila Johnson Guerrero

On Feb. 26, 2020, at about 3:29pm, Superior Court Associate Judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio signed and issued an arrest warrant for Manuela Johnson Guerrero for the charges of theft, with a bail amount set at \$15,000.

Guerrero is known to frequent Garapan, and poker establishments around the island. During the morning hours of Friday, Feb. 28, 2020, police located and attempted to ar-

rest Guerrero at a motel in Garapan, but she scaled off a third-floor balcony before police were able to make contact.

If Manuela "Leila" Johnson Guerrero is sighted do no approach, dial 911 immediately, or if you wish to remain anonymous,

call the CNMI Crime Stoppers Hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. (PR)



Guerrero

\$10K Ifit Scholarship applications available

HAGATNA, Guam—For the 9th year, Bank of Guam is offering graduating high school seniors the opportunity to earn a \$2,000 scholarship to attend college.

Applications are now available for the 2020 Ifit Scholarship via the bank's online website (www.bankofguam.com) or by requesting a copy from communications@bankofguam.com.

The scholarship is available

at any four-year accredited college or university. Up to 10 semifinalists will be selected by April 2020 and will then be required to submit additional documents, including an acceptance letter to an accredited four-year college or university. The final five recipients will be announced by May 2020.

Address questions to communications@bankofguam.com. (PR)

Public Participation Requirement

CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Special Education Program

Pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Public Participation Requirements, the Public School System Special Education Program are required to circulate for 60 days its grant application for Special Education, and Early Intervention Funds and allow 30 days during that period for public comments from the general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of youth with disabilities. Hard copies of the Special Education Grant Application are available from Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm at the Office of Special Education Program, Capitol Hill House Bldg #1224.

For Special Education Program
30-day Public Circulation Period: April 01, 2020 – April 30, 2020
60-day Public Comment Period: March 2, 2020 – May 01, 2020

You may also access the grant applications on the PSS Accountability, Research and Evaluation Website at <https://www.cnmips-soare.org/accountability>

Comments may be hand delivered to the Special Education Program office located in Capitol Hill Bldg number 1224 or phone your comments in to:

Special Education Program (670) 237-3029

For more information, please contact Ms. Donna Flores, Acting Director, Special Education Program at (670) 237-3029

NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

"RE-ANNOUNCEMENT"

OPENING DATE: February 18, 2020 CLOSING DATE: March 05, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2020-001	Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	UNGRADED \$60,000.00 to \$70,000.00-per annum
2020-003	CDBG-DR Compliance Manager	UNGRADED \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00-per annum

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. You may also access the application online at www.nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
EIGHT (8) ARFF ROLL UP DOORS REPLACEMENT

PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-20

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for replacement of eight (8) roll up doors at the Airport Fire Station of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.enr@pticom.com and/or wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 20, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: 2/21/2020

Juggling

corporate work and humanitarian service

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

With her twin roles as owner/vice-president of the McDonald's franchise on Saipan and in Guam and president of the Rotary Club of Saipan, Marcia "Ruri" E. Ayuyu is doing a delicate balancing act of doing good for both the corporate world and humankind.

Managing two restaurants on Saipan and overseeing approximately 120 employees requires an almost instinctive sense of good stewardship. "I oversee all aspects of the business for the two restaurants here on Saipan, representing the McDonald's brand and building a strong team of 120 employees at the same time," she said.

"...I want my employees to know that...they are just not my employees. ...I treat them as they are part of my family and they motivate me. Same goes for our customers every single day. ...Just seeing their smiles and happy faces makes me want to do more, makes me committed to be better every day," she added.

Ayuyu is not fazed about holding a management position in the corporate world that is usually male-dominated. "I don't see any difference ... What a man can do, a woman can do too. A man can do shuffling on the road, bush cutting; I can do those too," she said.

"I set my goals, I organize myself and I am good at that. I have my way of prioritizing and I make time for myself and my loved ones," she added.

As president of the Rotary Club of Saipan, Ayuyu takes this position with heart and grit. "I take the Rotary's mission—('Rotary connects the world')—to heart and thus, leading to bring in more members to become a part of our organization. I

believe the more members we have, the more tasks we can achieve," Ayuyu said.

"In the early months of my leadership at RCS, we have been working to maintain our budget, welcomed new members. We were able to do some work to protect our youth and children by spearheading cleanups, repainting and repairing our bus stops and the Rotary basketball court in Kagman," Ayuyu added. Those are on top of the donations that the Rotary Club regularly hands out.

Ayuyu believes that part of improving the quality of people's lives start with beautifying the island. One of RCS' project is putting up the Hafa Adai & Welcome sign along Airport Road.

"This helps the club be visible in playing an active part of our community. ...It is more important to do beautification of our island because our island is truly beautiful and we want to present our island well. ...We are all relying on tourism, so we don't want visitors and tourists to see an ugly or dirty island..." she said.

"When visitors and tourists see the preserved beauty of the Marianas, they will keep coming back. This will result in having businesses thrive and continue," she added.

'The work we do can transform people's lives'

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

True, social work is focused most of the time on helping others. But that sounds too simplistic. Those in this field know that it goes beyond that; it is a road fueled by passion to uplift and reach out to communities affected by social disadvantages, abuse, poverty, or disability.

Being in this field for 18 years, Lauri B. Ogumoro knows this work all too well. She is currently the executive director of Karidat Social Services and has been at the helm of this organization since 2015. Before that, she was the manager of Guma' Esperansa which is the shelter for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking since September 2002.

Social work is a courageous and, according to Ogumoro, a never-ending struggle for finding a balance between one's work and personal life. "One has to learn as a social worker to leave work at work. ...We see and hear some of the worst things that can happen in a person's life and this is the kind of job that can be 24-hours-a day. ...I have witnessed victims become survivors and have walked with them through some of the darkest days of their lives..." she said.

"I hold on to the fact that the work we do every day can transform people's lives. ...Celebrating their transformation motivates me every single day to get up and come to work and my experience every day is a reminder why I became a social worker..." she added.

In response to the needs of the community for services that Karidat offers, Ogumoro stays on top of the daily operations of the agency "...especially writing grants to bring in funding for our programs...[and] most especially our food pantry due to the high demand during these tough economic times and managing those grant programs to ensure we are in compliance with grant requirements," she said.

"Future plans also include getting the Karidat Thrift Shop up and running... and at the same time meeting the ever-changing needs of the community," she added.

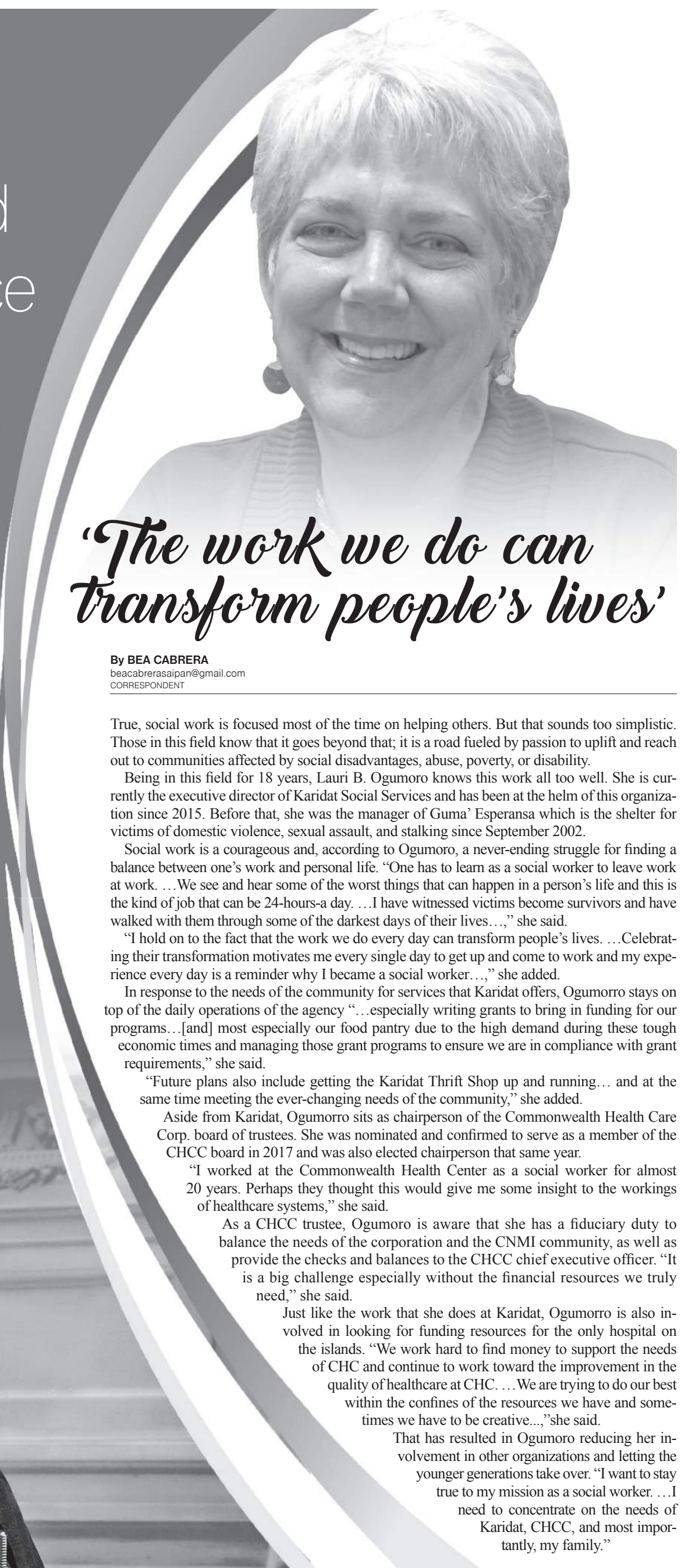
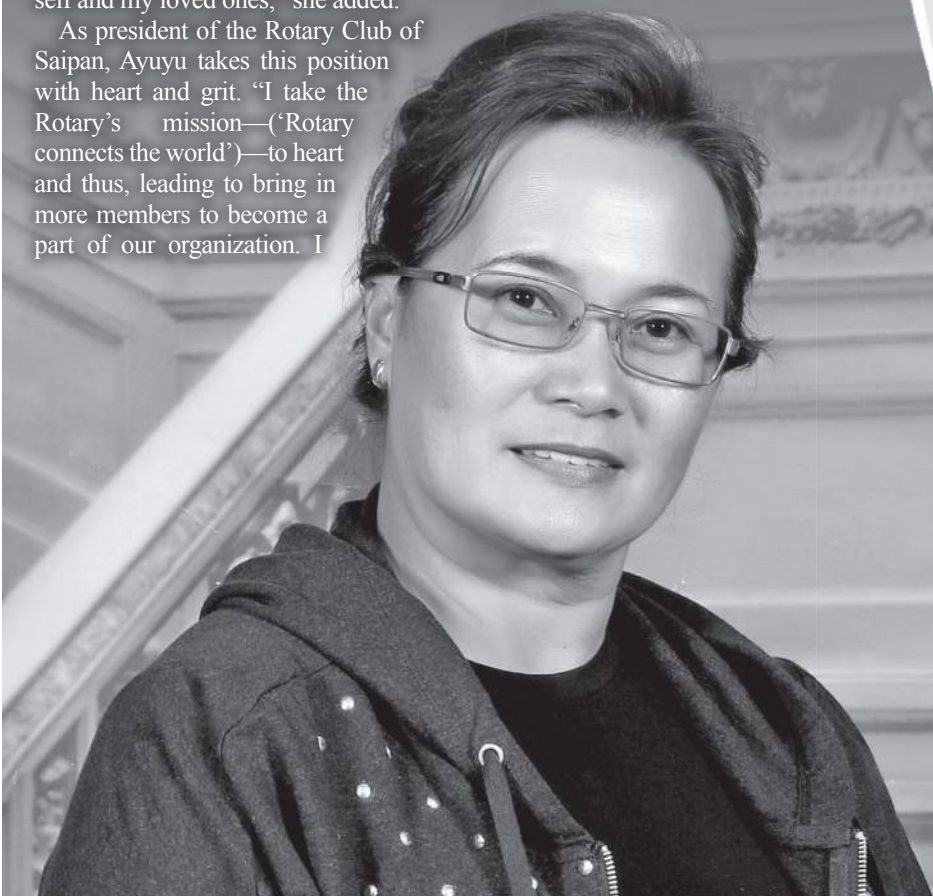
Aside from Karidat, Ogumoro sits as chairperson of the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. board of trustees. She was nominated and confirmed to serve as a member of the CHCC board in 2017 and was also elected chairperson that same year.

"I worked at the Commonwealth Health Center as a social worker for almost 20 years. Perhaps they thought this would give me some insight to the workings of healthcare systems," she said.

As a CHCC trustee, Ogumoro is aware that she has a fiduciary duty to balance the needs of the corporation and the CNMI community, as well as provide the checks and balances to the CHCC chief executive officer. "It is a big challenge especially without the financial resources we truly need," she said.

Just like the work that she does at Karidat, Ogumoro is also involved in looking for funding resources for the only hospital on the islands. "We work hard to find money to support the needs of CHC and continue to work toward the improvement in the quality of healthcare at CHC. ...We are trying to do our best within the confines of the resources we have and sometimes we have to be creative..." she said.

That has resulted in Ogumoro reducing her involvement in other organizations and letting the younger generations take over. "I want to stay true to my mission as a social worker. ...I need to concentrate on the needs of Karidat, CHCC, and most importantly, my family."



Deleon Guerrero joins CCA board

Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero has joined the Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors.

CCA also announced last Thursday the re-election of Roman "Bo" T. Palacios and Tina Marie M. Aguon for a two-year term on the board.

The general membership election was held at the meeting of the CCA board of directors on Jan. 16, 2020, in the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai. The election of CCA board officers was held on Feb. 25, 2020, and saw the re-election of Palacios to serve as president, Nora R. Sablan as vice president, Aguon as secretary, and Cesar Dumatol as treasurer.

In 2003, CCA began as an alliance of volunteers and became formally chartered and incorporated in 2008. And in 2009, CCA achieved a tax-exempt under 501 (c)(3) status and since then has been providing direct client financial assistance such as nutritional supplements and other personal needs, as well as offering certain types of medical equipment, e.g. hospital beds, wheelchairs, oxygen concentrator, etc. as prescribed by locally licensed physicians in the CNMI to those individuals who are receiving treatment for cancer.

Also, CCA facilitates monthly cancer survivors support group meetings, and

engages in various awareness and outreach activities. CCA has produced various educational publications such as brochures, fliers, videos, and DVDs. CCA organizes com-

munity events to raise awareness about cervical cancer, oral cancer, colorectal cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, and lung and pancreatic cancer, to mention a few. In

addition, CCA engages in programs such as early screening and detection, and patient navigation. Which is why CCA, in partnership with all seven dental clinics in the CNMI,

is offering free oral cancer screening for all ages.

CCA thanks all of its partners, donors and individuals who contribute to the successful programs of the association. The public is encouraged to learn about its programs and contribute to the very important and worthwhile work of the association. For more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or via email at ccamarianas@gmail.com, or visit www.ccamarianas.org, or you can visit the CCA office at the Gualo Rai Plaza building, located along Chalan Pale Arnold Middle Road in Gualo Rai. (PR)



Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero, left, has joined the Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MCS to maintain current tuition level, expand scholarships and financial aid

Mount Carmel School's board of directors recently decided to maintain current tuition levels and continue enrollment incentives such as the early bird registration discount. The school's leadership team is also exploring ways to expand scholarships and financial aid for its students. These measures are being taken in the wake of the spread of the coronavirus and the announcement of impending austerity measures in the CNMI.

In maintaining current tuition levels, the board and the leadership are focused on helping families during this difficult time. In the past 20 years, the school has only twice raised tuition across the board, in 1999 and in 2009. Despite this, over the past five years, the has board approved sustainable and incremental salary increases that now add up to a 50% increase over that time period.

The school is also con-

tinuing its annual early bird registration discount of \$200 per student (normally \$400) for students in first through twelfth grade and \$75 for K4 and K5 (normally \$100), which will be available until May 2. On top of that, the school's leadership team will be exploring ways to expand scholarship funding and financial aid. This may include earmarking a portion of all education tax credit revenue toward the school's

scholarship and financial aid program.

School president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero applauded the board's decision. "It's always been our goal to offer the best Catholic education possible while keeping it affordable for our parents. ... By maintaining tuition and looking to expand scholarships and financial aid, the board and school leadership are demonstrating their commitment to our students and

their families," he said.


In addition to maintaining current tuition levels, the school will also continue family discounts for families that enroll more than one child. Families with two children can avail of a \$600 discount for the second child, families with three children can avail of a \$1,000 discount for the third child, and families with four children can avail of a \$1,500 discount for the fourth child. (PR)

Leong named to RIT's dean's list

ROCHESTER, NY—Giselle Ivy Leong of Saipan was named to the dean's list at Rochester Institute of Technology for the 2019 fall semester. Leong is in the graphic design program.


Degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for dean's list if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of "Incomplete", "D" or "F"; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

Founded in 1829, RIT enrolls about 19,000 students in more than 200 programs. (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-20-010

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-20-010, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 6, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *An electronic copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.*

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. The Bid bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.


This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 21, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Purchasing Technician via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org, Joseph Crisostomo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email joseph.crisostomo@cucgov.org and Alfred Palattao, CUC Power Division, Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.


GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-20-012

SR-2 SEWER LIFT STATION REHABILITATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the SR-2 Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of construction of a new sewer lift station to replace the existing SR-2 sewer lift station; installation of new gravity sewer mains, manhole, force main from the new lift station to the nearest existing sewer force main, retaining wall, guard rail, installation of Owner-Furnished Contractor-Installed (OFCL) submersible duplex pump and controller; construction of a new generator building and appurtenances; demolition of the entire existing generator buildings, accessories, appurtenances and existing minor structures. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-20-012, SR-2 Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) March 10, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 24, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water & Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

'Private providers may now serve Medicaid beneficiaries'

The CNMI Medicaid program said Friday that all private providers in the CNMI may begin receiving and providing on-island outpatient primary care services to its 15,000 adult and children Medicaid beneficiaries in the Commonwealth effective yesterday, March 1, 2020.

The CNMI Medicaid program received the official grant award notification, dated Feb. 20, 2020, from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

In December 2019, U.S. Congress increased the budget and the FMAP in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2020. For two years, the CNMI Medicaid

aid program will receive \$120 million in federal funding. The act further increased the Federal Matching Assistance Percentage or "FMAP" from 55% to 83%. This means that the CNMI funding has been substantially lessened but nonetheless is required since federal funds may not be disbursed without the CNMI share. The CNMI is receiving the maximum provided to any state or territory in accordance with Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

For fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the CNMI Medicaid will require an increase from the local appropriations and allotments to be able to pay for the matching funds for the FMAP pro-

grams for medical services. The required local matching for FMAP is now 17%.

The CNMI Medicaid program anticipates that there will be sufficient funding for the CHIP beneficiaries for the current fiscal year that ends on Sept. 30, 2020. For adult beneficiaries, however, be advised that the Medicaid program may need to rescind the ability to seek treatment from a private provider should there be insufficient funding for the CNMI match for the federal funds as required by law.

At the same time, U.S. Congress attached conditions on the funding because of the significant increase in funding to ensure that the territories manage the Medicaid program in a manner similar to the United States. Specifically, Congress requires that the territories to:

- Make "Reasonable and Appropriate" progress to submit data to the Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System);

- Establish a Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, and

- Submit reports directly to the chairs and ranking member of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate Committees of Jurisdiction.

The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2020 further provides for penalties if the territories are unable to make reasonable and appropriate progress in achieving the requirements. The penalties include a .25% reduction in the federal share for each quarter that the CNMI does not make progress. This will require additional action by CNMI Legislature and funding of a "Program Integrity"

function Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and program.

"I want to acknowledge and express my deep gratitude to Delegate [Gregorio] Kilili [C.] Sablan (Ind-MP) for raising and diligently pursuing the problem of the 'Medicaid Fiscal Cliff' in the CNMI and other territories. His leadership was absolutely essential in encouraging his colleagues and staff that are behind the scenes to hold two unprecedented hearings on the Medicaid funding problems in the territories," said Helen Sablan, director of the Medicaid program. "I also want to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of Gov. Ralph [DLG] Torres for raising the issue directly with Secretary Alex Azar III of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Finally, I want to thank the many individuals such as Es-

ther Muña and Kaitlyn Neisis of the [Commonwealth Health Care Corp.] and the many organizations that supported and provided information to the U.S. Congress about the Medicaid program in the territories. The funding provided will benefit over 15,000 Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries in the Commonwealth, help our health care system to be sustained, and aid our economy and government with tax and health care expenses for the CNMI."

Sablan further said, "I would like to remind all private providers that the Medicaid claims must be submitted in the manner and timetable required by the Medicaid program. The data is required to meet the requirements of federal reporting and will be provided to the federal and CNMI Medicaid Fraud Control Unit." (PR)

\$820.6K allotted for Prior Service Trust

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior has approved the allocation of \$820,600 in fiscal year 2020 funding for the Prior Service Trust Fund Administration, which distributes benefits to the more than 700 former employees of the post-World War II, U.S.-administered, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in the Western Pacific.

Employee benefits provided through the Prior Service Trust Fund represent a responsibility assumed by the federal government following

the dissolution of the TTPI in 1986. The program serves beneficiaries with five years or more of prior service. The four jurisdictions to emerge from the TTPI were the CNMI, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The CNMI is a U.S. territory. The latter three entities are independent sovereign Pacific nations who each share a unique relationship with the United States under a Compact of Free Association agreement. (PR)

Head Start, Early Head Start now accepting applications

Starting today, March 2, the Head Start/Early Head Start Program will begin to actively accept applications for school year 2020-2021.

Head Start/Early Head Start is a federally-funded pre-school and infant/toddler program that provides comprehensive services to eligible children and families. The center-based program includes developmentally appropriate

learning, family engagement, nutritious meals, health services and support for children with special needs.

Head Start serves pre-school children ages 3-4 years old on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Early Head Start serves infants and toddlers age 6 weeks-36 months on Saipan.

To be considered for an enrollment slot at the opening of the 2020-2021 school

year, the initial application period will end on June 19, 2020. Age eligible children on the current school year 2019-2020 waitlist will need to submit an updated application for the new school year. The school (eligible) age cutoff date is Sept. 30, 2020; children who will be 5 years old on or before that date shall register for Kindergarten.

Recruitment outreach

The Head Start Program will be conducting recruitment outreach on Saipan at the Nutrition Assistance Program office in As Lito during the March NAP issuance from 7:30am to 10am.

For information about the application and eligibility process or recruitment outreach opportunities call 323-7446/664-3761 or email hsehs@cnmipss.org. (PR)



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Opinion

Hafa Adahi!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Phone time: Our cellphones are becoming addictive

Put down the cellphone. Live a little. That phone is stealing your life away.

Recent surveys show the average American spends about three to four hours each day on their cellphones. That's more than a month a year, depending on an individual's usage.

A Deloitte survey found that people check their phones nearly 50 times a day, including at work. That's an extreme distraction, perhaps even an addiction.

The Pew Research Center found nearly a third of Americans are online constantly—much of that on their phones. More than two-thirds of teenagers say they often or sometimes go on their phones to pass the time, according to Pew.

RescueTime, which provides time management advice and tools, said it found that most sessions on the phone last two minutes. That means people are constantly picking up and putting down their phones throughout the day. If people did that in the days of landline phones, someone probably would have called a psychiatrist for them.

We're looking at our phones and frittering away hours of our lives each day that would be better spent talking with friends, families and children. Or working. Or writing the great American novel.

All of us should try to plan dedicated time away from our phones.

Yes, sometimes the phones are needed for work. Reality check. Most of the time, people glued to a cellphone are surfing the internet or playing games or at best engaged in an intense messaging session about nothing too important. The time adds up.

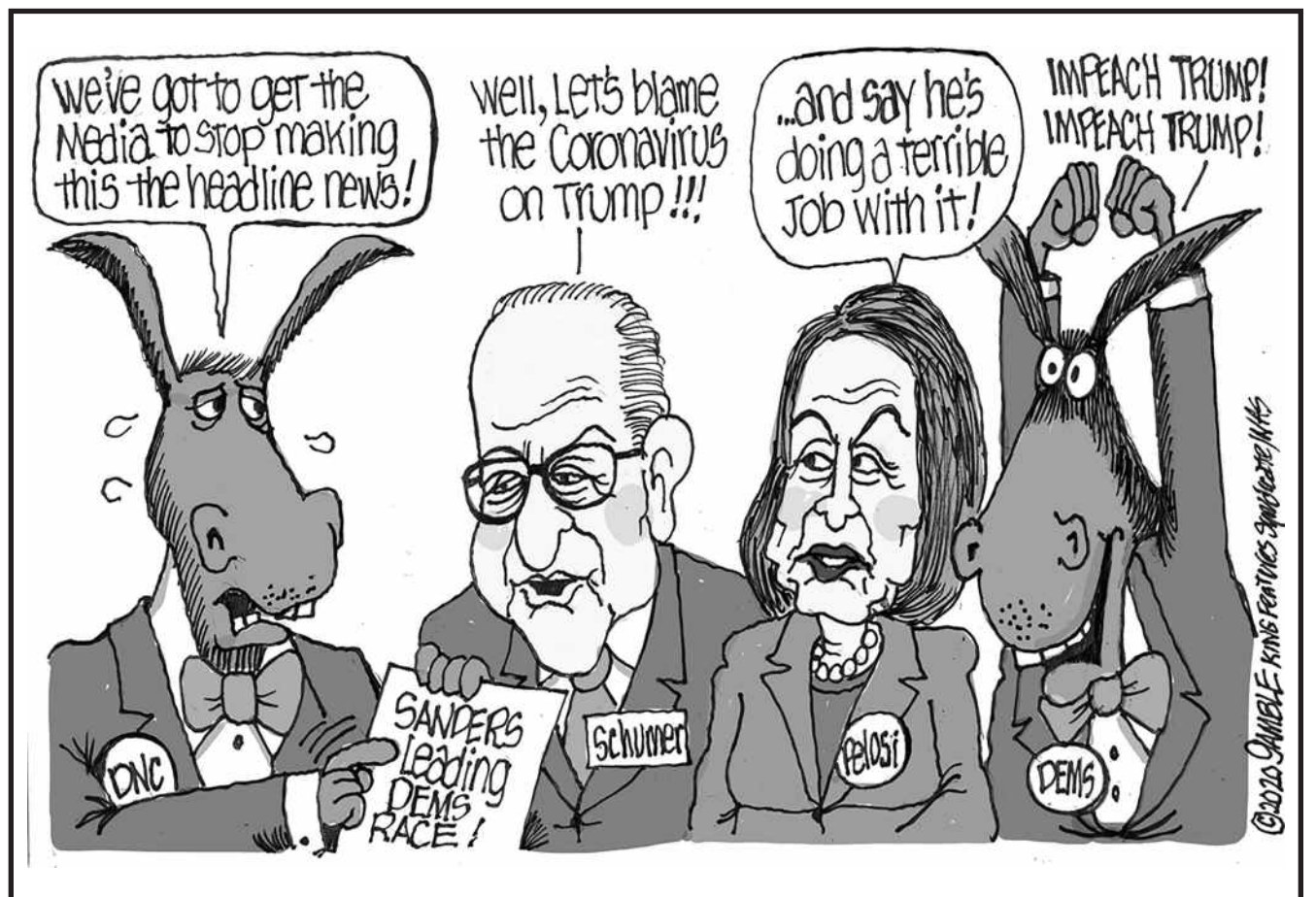
Cellphones are remarkable inventions, giving us access to information from almost anywhere. Like any good thing—such as food or wine—too much causes problems. Over-used, cellphones affect our mental health and relationships. Psychologists increasingly recognize a link between heavy social media usage and depression and anxiety. People become anxious if they forget their phone or have to be away from it for a while.

Cellphone use is often impolite, as well. Many people check their messages or even text when talking to someone else. And then there's the danger from people who are texting or using their phones while driving.

There's no doubt that cellphones are changing the ways we interact with our fellow human beings. And many of those changes are not good.

Try to take a few more phone breaks during the day or resolve to put aside several hours when the cellphone is off-limits. It might just make for a better day or give a bit of insight into what's going on with friends or family members.

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Modi's win is a populist warning to the world

It's a terrible feeling to discover that your country is full of strangers. For some in India, the election of Narendra Modi in 2014, with a majority that India hadn't seen in three decades, was that moment. Everyone knew there was discontent with the status quo; everyone knew that Modi was doing well, better than anyone had expected before he became a candidate—but to win an unprecedented majority? It meant that far more Indians than imaginable were willing to trust a leader with so disquieting a record.

Since then, I have seen that feeling of shock replicated elsewhere, and often. In Britain, for example, in the summer of 2016, as the country voted narrowly for Brexit. And again, in the U.S. that fall.

After a while, you refuse to believe what happened. It was special circumstances that led to this shock result, you're told. Voters who should have known better were carried away with anger and enthusiasm, responding to a government floundering in corruption, or to years of feeling left out and ignored by mainstream parties, or to economic policies that didn't sufficiently take their interests into account. Voters are sensible, people say; when they see how their choices aren't working out as hoped, they will come around. Of course they will, that's how democracy works.

In India, Narendra Modi's premiership was certainly not working out as hoped. The jobs he had promised to create weren't there. Rural distress was spreading, as the government's tight control on food prices kept farmers from making the sort of profits they wanted. The prime minister took controversial, indefensible decisions like the overnight ban on 86% of India's cash. And he lost several crucial midterm provincial elections, some by unusually large margins. Yes, he remained popular, but politics seemed to be snapping back to normal.

And then came May 23, 2019, when—instead of voting out Modi, or chastening him by reducing his majority, Indian voters instead rewarded him with an even greater majority. His party's share of the vote jumped by more than 6%. Instead of seeing his term as a disappointment, his supporters retained their allegiance—and gained converts. Losing once to the populist might be bad, but you just have to look at India to realize twice is infinitely worse.

Liberals in India weren't alone in being shocked in the past fortnight. A few days before Modi's victory was announced, Australia's incumbent right-wing government—after a sham-bolic few years—were returned to office, defying opinion polls and surprising pretty much everybody. A predicted swing against them didn't materialize to any substantive degree, and voters in places like Queensland opted in larger than expected numbers for extremist parties—a choice that ultimately benefited the incumbents.

These are warning signs for the rest of the world. Do you be-

By MIHIR SHARMA
Bloomberg News

Mihir Sharma is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He was a columnist for the *Indian Express* and the *Business Standard*, and he is the author of *Restart: The Last Chance for the Indian Economy*.



lieve that rational Brexit voters looking at the mess of the past two years will obviously change their minds? Think again. They may not see it with the eyes you do. The Brexit Party just won the biggest share of the U.K. vote in the European Parliament elections. Do you think the Democratic "blue wave" in the midterms of 2018 means Trump's chances of winning re-election are low? Don't bet on it.

If voters can make the wrong choice once, they can do it again—even in the face of objective evidence. Especially if their first choice has been misdiagnosed. If you imagine it was a protest, or a response to specific economic circumstances, then listen more closely to what your fellow citizens are saying—even if makes you uncomfortable, because you don't want to believe that's what they want and believe.

In India, too many liberals came to the conclusion that Modi won in 2014 just because he promised jobs, or because the previous government had been a mess. It made his victory more palatable, more normal. It made our country more recognizable. But it was wrong. In fact, Modi promised pride. As his followers saw it, Modi promised to restore the greatness that more than a thousand years of foreign rule had sapped from India, culminating in the government of the Italian-born Sonia Gandhi.

He implied that the state would cease decades-old preferential treatment to Indians from historically disadvantaged or minority communities. His opponents sought to combat him on his economic platform, or on corruption allegations—but his voters chose not to listen to their arguments. Those issues simply weren't what appealed to them in the first place. They liked his vision of the country, and so were resolutely deaf to arguments about anything else.

It turns out that, if you want to fight nationalist-populists like Modi, you can't treat them like regular politicians. Nor can you assume away unpalatable truths about your fellow voters. You can't change their votes by appealing to their pocketbooks, or by big economic promises, or by excoriating a populist government's record, because they will always trust such leaders more than they will you. You can't change how they vote until you change their minds about what sort of country they want to live in. Only then can you defeat Modi—or Trump, or Brexit, or Le Pen.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Bernie Sanders' skewed worldview

Bernie Sanders may be on the verge of gaining an insurmountable lead in the Democratic nomination fight, but he's not letting that get in the way of his socialist principles.

Asked in a "60 Minutes" interview about old statements praising Fidel Castro's supposed achievements in health care and education, Sanders stayed true to himself.

"You know, when Fidel Castro came into office, you know what he did?" he told interviewer Anderson Cooper. "He had a massive literacy program. Is that a bad thing? Even though Fidel Castro did it?"

No, literacy programs aren't a bad thing, but they usually don't require seizing power in a violent revolution, jailing and killing political opponents, seizing private property, or outlawing the free press. Teaching children to read is something that happens in free societies, too. That Bernie continues to believe a literacy program is some kind of recommendation for a regime that has otherwise oppressed and immiserated its people for decades is a sign of his skewed view of what's important and just for a polity.

Asked by Cooper about jailed Cuban dissidents, Sanders said he condemns that, but in any rational view, it's the imprisoning of people for expressing unwelcome political views that is the

foremost thing to know about the Cuban dictatorship, period, full stop.

The left has nonetheless always viewed Fidel Castro as some kind of social worker who happened to take and hold power—or "come to office," as Sanders delicately puts it—via force.

Back in 1989, Sanders wrote, "Cuba—the one country in the entire region that has no hunger, is educating all of its children and is providing high-quality, free health care—is hated with a passion by the Democrats as much as Republicans."

Besides the moral obtuseness of arguments like this, the factual basis for such claims is dubious. Cuba was already doing well on measures of health care and education prior to the revolution.

Bernie's perspective on Cuba is characteristic of his worldview that has a sympathy for America's enemies, at least if they are communist or Islamist; that assumes the worst of the United States; and that opposes nearly all U.S. military interventions as misbegotten or malign (Sanders voted for the Afghanistan War after Sept. 11, and now regrets even that vote).

Electing Bernie Sanders would be almost indistinguishable from putting the late radical historian Howard Zinn, or the America-loathing linguist Noam Chomsky, or the tendentious left-wing filmmaker Michael Moore in charge of American foreign

By **RICH LOWRY**

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Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



policy. The country would be in the hands of an opponent of its power with no faith in its goodness. Bernie would make Barack Obama's overly solicitous attitude toward our enemies and Donald Trump's bizarrely warm statements about foreign dictators look like American foreign-policy orthodoxy by comparison.

There is almost no enemy of the United States that wouldn't be heartened by a Sanders victory, and see it as an opportunity to make gains at the expense of the United States and its allies. If his decades-long track record is any indication, Sanders would be inclined to make excuses for our adversaries and look on the bright side of their repression and rapine.

He's doing it with the Cuban dictatorship to this day.

Stonewall story is still playing out

In late June of 1969, the New York Police Department raided the Stonewall Inn, a bar in Manhattan where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people would congregate. On the night of the raid, patrons fought back and days of riots ensued.

Although resistance to the policing of queer lives started long before Stonewall, the riots are widely considered the catalyst for the modern day LGBTQ rights movement. As we commemorate their 50th anniversary, the struggle against state violence and for queer liberation continues.

At the time of the raid, same-sex sex was criminalized across the country and New York City was actively enforcing a law that prohibited people from wearing "fewer than three articles of clothing appropriate to their sex." Anti-cross dressing laws of this sort, which existed in jurisdictions across the country, were used to repress gender variance of any kind, particularly within communities of color.

Flawless Sabrina, a legendary performer and organizer of drag pageants in the 1950s and 1960s, estimates that she was arrested more than 100 times for "cross-dressing."

Police routinely raided bars and other public spaces frequented by LGBTQ people. Though the six-day uprising that began at Stonewall in the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, was significant, there were important precursors to that revolt.

Three years earlier, in 1966, trans women and drag queens of color resisted police brutality at Compton's cafeteria in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco. As Tamara Ching, a trans woman resident of San Francisco, later recalled, "We didn't think this was a big deal. It was a natural thing for people to do back then, to protest."

People were already organizing in the streets and defending their rights in the years and decades that came before Stonewall. But Stonewall became a symbol of an organized fight that aligned with power to change legal systems and structures. Ultimately, some of those changes came to pass.

In the 50 years since Stonewall, many things have changed. Legally sanctioned exclusions of queer people from marriage, government jobs and other sites of power have been toppled through sustained legal fights and organizing.

But many other forms of repression persist. The achievement of legal gains in the name of the entire community while so many black and brown LGBTQ people continue to die premature deaths because of constrained life chances suggest that perhaps the story of what was launched at Stonewall is incomplete.

Already, at least 10 trans women of color have been murdered so far in 2019, according to Human Rights Watch. Black and brown LGBTQ communities continue to be targets of aggressive policing. Rather than fight to protect people from systemic

By **CHASE STRANGIO**

Tribune News Service

Chase Strangio is an attorney at the ACLU in New York City. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.



harm, the Trump administration has proposed rules to deny trans people health care and kick them out of homeless shelters.

For many, it feels like the gains we've made are in peril and the most marginalized members of the community, the very people who led the fight at Stonewall, are still often ignored.

The Stonewall riots only mark the beginning of one story. LGBTQ histories are deeper and messier and more nuanced than that one story can capture. They began long before Stonewall and they will persist long after Donald Trump.

Stonewall was a beginning of a legal reform movement that never achieved its promise. On this anniversary, perhaps our prerogative is to go deeper into our history to find a different story to tell — one that leads with liberation and survival and leaves no one behind.

Trump's 'totally prepared' coronavirus pledge will be put to the test

During a press briefing Wednesday evening on the coronavirus outbreak, President Donald Trump claimed the U.S. is "totally prepared" to respond to a disease that is spreading to new countries seemingly every day.

That's a bold assertion that will be tested immediately, and it may come back to haunt the administration. Indeed, the first significant challenge came shortly after the briefing as the Centers for Disease Control disclosed America's first infection not tied to travel in China or another known case. If there's one such case, there are likely to be more.

Against that backdrop, the president's instinct to downplay the threat—even if the experts with him were more sobering—and his willingness to exchange potshots with political rivals such as Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi are especially troublesome. He at least acknowledged at the briefing that the risk of the virus could escalate, which is an improvement, and his decision to put Vice President Mike Pence in charge of the response may make things less chaotic. But modestly improved rhetoric and a new virus czar are a pretty long way off from total preparation.

Trump and his assembled officials did some things right at

the briefing. They encouraged people to take steps that might prevent the spread of the virus, such as washing hands and staying home when ill. These efforts may not seem important, but they genuinely do reduce the spread of viruses, and the fact that the president encouraged those measures is significant. The possibility of quarantines was acknowledged, as was the need to financially and logistically support state and local responses to any uptick in infections.

But specifics on when quarantines might be needed, the reasons White House and congressional estimates of needed emergency funding are so far apart, and the possible need for further travel bans were all conspicuously absent. If Pence wants to prove he's up to the job of leading the response, providing more detail on these crucial issues should be a priority. Meanwhile, even as Trump described the potential breadth of actions underway, he appeared to underplay the urgency. "We do have plans on a much larger scale," he said. "I don't think we'll need it."

Trump's seeming preference to minimize the threat of the virus also reared its head with his repeated emphasis that there were just 15 confirmed cases in the U.S., not counting repatri-

By **MAX NISEN**

Bloomberg Opinion






Max Nisen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering biotech, pharma and health care. He previously wrote about management and corporate strategy for Quartz and Business Insider.

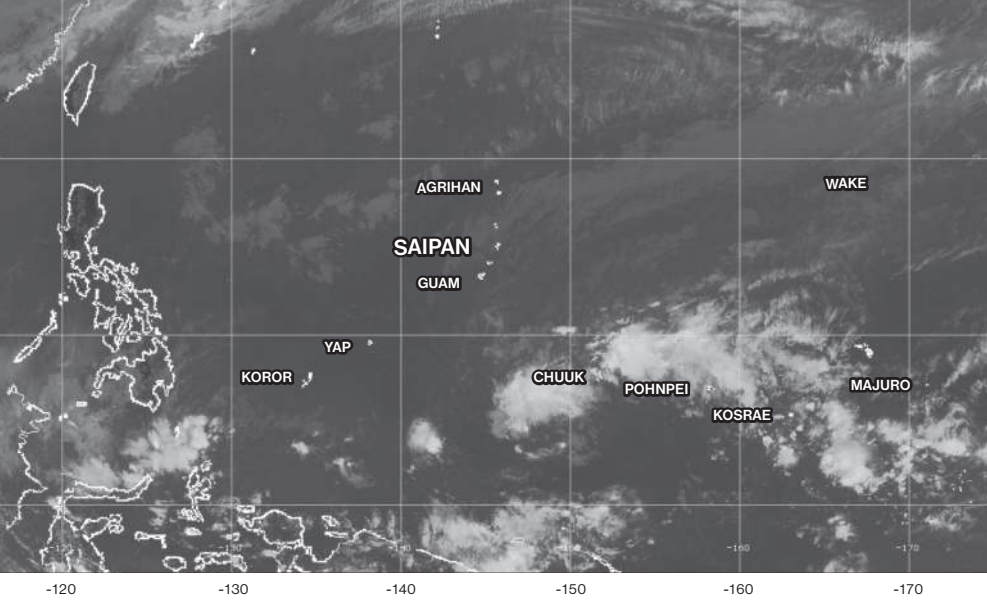


ated Americans. He attributed this to his rapid decision to ban travelers from China. But another culprit is that America has been extremely slow to test broadly for the disease due to limited capacity and narrow CDC guidelines. As the recently disclosed mystery case makes it clear, the administration won't truly know if the virus is spreading broadly or be able to respond appropriately until America tests far more broadly.

Wednesday's press conference was the president's attempt to calm markets and the country, but the virus is unlikely to cooperate. The administration will have to replace words with palpable action.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	76°	87°	75°	87°	77°	87°	77°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:32 AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Marianas are generally in a dry season trade-wind regime with two minor exceptions during the first few days of the forecast. The first is a trough extending northward from a disturbance near Pohnpei. The second is a shear line approaching from the north. Moisture is rather limited though, so rain amounts are expected to be underwhelming. The scattered wording in the forecast is mainly for coverage, which might be pretty good, close to 50% over a 12 hour period. Again, most of the QPF amounts will be weak.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°			
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°			
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°			
Pohnpei	Windy	85° / 80°			
Kosrae	Windy	85° / 80°			
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°			

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Showers	75° / 66°			
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	46° / 27°			
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 64°			
Honolulu	Windy	78° / 68°			
London	Showers	48° / 36°			
Los Angeles	Sunny	69° / 48°			
Manila	Sunny	91° / 75°			
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°			
Miami	Partly Cloudy	75° / 70°			
New York	Partly Cloudy	55° / 45°			
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°			
Paris	Showers	50° / 37°			
Busan	Partly Cloudy	54° / 43°			
Rome	Rain	63° / 52°			
Salem	Partly Cloudy	69° / 56°			
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 47°			
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	52° / 32°			
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°			
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	62° / 51°			



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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:59 AM	LOW TIDE		1.33
6:22 AM	HIGH TIDE		0.90
12:00 PM	LOW TIDE		1.55
7:27 PM	HIGH TIDE		0.19

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:33 AM	6:24 PM
Tuesday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Wednesday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:31 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:30 AM	6:25 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:22 AM	5:54 PM	-
Tuesday	-	12:29 AM	12:08 PM
Wednesday	-	1:24 AM	12:58 PM
Thursday	-	2:20 AM	1:53 PM
Friday	-	3:17 AM	2:53 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2020							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	OZ623	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4	TW309	11:10am	4:40pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ6243	3:10pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ624	3:30pm	7:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3
TW310	5:40pm	10:15pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:10pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:30pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Virus outbreak batters economies, raises fear of spread

TOKYO (AP)—Amid fears about where the next outbreak of a fast-spreading new virus would appear, infections and deaths continued to rise across the globe Sunday, emptying streets of tourists and workers, shaking economies and rewriting the realities of daily life.

Panic-buying of daily necessities emerged in Japan, tourist sites across Asia, Europe and the Mideast were deserted, and governments closed schools and banned big gatherings. Amusement parks have been shuttered and concerts cancelled. In Paris, priests stopped placing sacramental bread in worshippers' mouths.

While the new coronavirus has extended its reach across the world, definite geographic clusters of infections were emerging, with Iran, Italy and South Korea seeing rising cases. The United States, meanwhile, recorded its first death, a man in his 50s in Washington state who had underlying health conditions but who hadn't traveled to any affected areas.

"Additional cases in the United States are likely, but healthy individuals should be able to fully recover," President Donald Trump said at a Saturday briefing, where officials announced heightened warnings about travel to certain regions of Italy and South Korea as well as a ban on travel to Iran.

China on Sunday reported a slight uptick in new cases over the past 24 hours to 573, the first time in five days that



A health worker wearing a protective suit walks between the ambulances to transport patients in Daegu, South Korea, Sunday, March 1, 2020. AP

number has exceeded 500. They remain almost entirely confined to the hardest-hit province of Hubei and its capital, the epicenter of Wuhan.

The list of countries touched by the virus climbed to nearly 60, with Ireland and Ecuador reporting their first cases Saturday. More than 86,000 people worldwide have contracted the virus, with deaths topping 2,900.

Islam's holiest sites were closed to foreign pilgrims, while professional baseball teams played in deserted stadiums in Japan and officials in France advised residents to forgo customary greeting kisses.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recommended

that a meeting March 9 where about 10,000 people were to commemorate the 25th anniversary of a U.N. conference on women's rights be drastically scaled back because of the spread of COVID-19.

Many cases of the virus have been relatively mild, and some of those infected apparently show no symptoms at all. That can allow for easier spread, and worries are mounting that prolonged quarantines, supply chain disruptions and a sharp reduction in tourism and business travel could weaken the global economy or even cause a recession.

South Korea, the second hardest hit country after Chi-

na, has more than 3,500 cases.

Italian authorities say the country now has more than 1,100 coronavirus cases, with 29 deaths so far.

Iran is preparing for the possibility of "tens of thousands" of people getting tested for the virus as the number of confirmed cases spiked again Saturday, an official said. So far, the virus and the COVID-19 illness it causes have killed more than 40 people out of nearly 600 confirmed cases in Iran.

As governments scrambled to control the spread and businesses wrestled with interrup-

tions, researchers working to better understand the disease reported that the death rate may be lower than initially feared as more mild cases are counted.

A study by Chinese researchers published Friday in the New England Journal of Medicine analyzing 1,099 patients at more than 500 hospitals throughout China calculated a death rate of 1.4%, substantially lower than earlier studies that focused on patients in Wuhan, where it started and has been most severe.

Assuming there are many more cases with no or very

mild symptoms, "the case fatality rate may be considerably less than 1%," U.S. health officials wrote in an editorial in the journal.

That would make the new virus more like a severe seasonal flu than a disease similar to its genetic cousins SARS, severe acute respiratory syndrome, or MERS, Middle East respiratory syndrome.

There's growing evidence of the vast cost and economic turmoil of the disease that emerged in central China in December. A new report shows a sharp decline in Chinese manufacturing in February after efforts to contain the virus shut down much of the world's second-largest economy. The survey comes as global stock markets fall sharply on fears that the virus will spread abroad.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced a 270 billion yen (\$2.5 billion) emergency economic package to help fight the virus. Abe said at a news conference that Japan is at critical juncture to determine whether the country can keep the outbreak under control ahead of the Tokyo summer Olympics.

Abe, whose announcement this past week of a plan to close all schools for more than a month has been criticised said the emergency package includes financial support for parents and their employers affected by the closures.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

BankGuam Holding Co. declares dividends

GUAM—BankGuam Holding Company (BK-GMF) announced that its Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.10 per share for the holders of its common stock and a dividend payment to the holders of the Company's 5.5% Fixed Rate/Floating Rate Noncumulative Preferred Stock, Series A, at its Board's regular meeting held on Monday, February 24, 2020. The dividends will be paid on March 31, 2020, to shareholders of record as of March 31, 2020. (PR)

Joe Coulombe, founder of popular Trader Joe's markets, dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Joe Coulombe envisioned a new generation of young grocery shoppers emerging in the 1960s, one that wanted healthy, tasty, high-quality food they couldn't find in most supermarkets and couldn't afford to buy in the few high-end gourmet outlets. So he found a new way to bring everything from a then-exotic snack food called granola to the California-produced wines that for flavor compared with anything from France. And he made shopping for them almost as much fun as sailing the high seas when he created Trader Joe's, a quirky little grocery store filled with nautical themes and staffed not by managers and clerks but by "captains and mates." From the time he opened his first store in Pasadena, California, in 1967 until his death Friday at age 89, Cou-

lombe watched his namesake business rise from a cult favorite of educated but underpaid young people—and a few hippies—to a retail giant with more than 500 outlets in over 40 states.

Geneva auto show, other big events canceled amid virus fears

GENEVA (AP)—The Geneva auto show was canceled after the Swiss government put an immediate ban Friday on all large events in order to halt the spread of the new coronavirus. The Swiss ban on public and private events involving more than 1,000 people will last until at least March 15. The move highlights the growing impact of the virus on daily lives and livelihoods, as governments try to fight an outbreak that has infected more than 82,000 people and killed over 2,700 worldwide. Outbreak concerns have already led organizers to call off several major industry events around the world, including a mobile technology conference that was due to happen this week in Barcelona, Spain, and Facebook's developer conference set for May in San Jose, California. Still others, such as a cybersecurity conference in San Francisco and a popular video game convention in Boston, proceeded this week even after big companies dropped out. The Geneva International Motor Show was due to run March 5-15 and draws tens of thousands of visitors every year. The event was expected to generate 200 million to 250 million Swiss francs (dollars) worth of spending in the Geneva area.

Oil prices fall as coronavirus spreads outside China

NEW YORK (AP)—With the viral outbreak spreading to more countries, the price of oil has dropped precipitously as global demand weakens even further.

That has sent shares tumbling for oil giants like Exxon and Chevron while smaller producers with idling rigs continue to slash jobs.

Hundreds of new cases of the virus that causes the COVID-19 disease have been announced in recent days outside of China. The list of countries touched by the illness has climbed to nearly 60 as Mexico, Belarus, Lithuania, New Zealand, Nigeria, Azerbaijan, Iceland and the Netherlands reported their first cases. More than 85,000 people worldwide have contracted the illness, with deaths topping 2,900.

Oil industry analysts fear that what they thought was a contained disruption may

instead lead to more travel restrictions and even less oil consumed.

"That was the fear all along, that the virus would not be contained in China," said Claudio Galimberti, head of demand, refining and agriculture at S&P Global Platts. "There are entire cities, and in some cases regions, that are in a lockdown. When you begin to have a lockdown, people work from home, factories shut down, people don't travel. The impact on oil is very, very bad."

Oil prices fell dramatically in mid-February, but had been steadily climbing back as the number of new cases of the virus in China slowed. In the last week, however, reports of the spreading virus knocked prices down. The benchmark for U.S. crude oil fell 16% during the week, settling Friday at \$44.76 a barrel. Brent crude, the in-

ternational standard, dropped 14% for the week to its lowest levels since July 2017, closing Friday at \$50.52 a barrel.

Meanwhile, shares of Exxon Mobil tumbled to \$49.82 on Thursday, reaching a 15-year low, before rebounding more than 3% on Friday. Chevron Corp. shares hit their lowest level in nearly four years on Friday.

The Financial Times reported that Saudi Arabia is pushing for deep cuts in oil production to help stabilize prices in the face of falling demand. The newspaper, citing people familiar with the talks, said the Saudis propose to bear most of the brunt of a cutback of 1 million barrels per day but want Russia and other big producers to join them. Representatives of OPEC and allies like Russia plan to meet next week.

Nation

Wash. state sees 1st virus death in US, declares emergency

By ANDREW SELSKY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The governor of Washington declared a state of emergency Saturday after a man died there of COVID-19, the first such reported death in the United States. More than 50 people in a nursing facility are sick and being tested for the virus.

Gov. Jay Inslee directed state agencies to use "all resources necessary" to prepare for and respond to the coronavirus outbreak. The declaration also allows the use of the Washington National Guard, if necessary.

"We will continue to work toward a day where no one dies from this virus," the governor vowed.

■ ■ ■
WASHINGTON (AP)— Seeking to reassure the American public, President Donald Trump said there was "no reason to panic" as the new coronavirus claimed its first victim inside the U.S. The White House also announced new restrictions on international travel to prevent its spread.

Trump, speaking Saturday only moments after the death in Washington state was announced, took a more measured approach a day after he complained that the virus threat was being overblown and that his political enemies were perpetuating a "hoax."

"This is very serious stuff," he said, but still insisted the criticism of his administration's handling of the virus outbreak was a hoax.

Biden hopes South Carolina win boosts him on Super Tuesday

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)— Joe Biden scored a thundering victory in South Carolina's Democratic primary on the strength of African American support, a decisive win that could force moderate rivals out of the race and blunt the rise of progressive leader Bernie Sanders.

Biden's win Saturday came at a perilous moment in his 2020 bid as he needed an emphatic rebound after underwhelming performances this month in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada. The race now pivots to the 14 states from Maine to California that vote on Tuesday in what effect will be a national primary.

"We are very much alive," Biden declared at an exuberant post-election rally. "For all of you who have been knocked down, counted out, left behind -- this is your campaign."



A person is taken by stretcher to a waiting ambulance from a nursing facility where more than 50 people are sick and being tested for the COVID-19 virus, Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020, in Kirkland, Wash.

Trump appeared at a hastily called news conference in the White House briefing room with Vice President Mike Pence and top public health officials to announce that the U.S. was banning travel to Iran and urging Americans not to travel to regions of Italy and South Korea where the virus has been prevalent.

He said 22 people in the U.S. had been stricken by the new coronavirus, of whom one had died while four were deemed "very ill." Additional cases were "like-

ly," he added.

Health officials in California, Oregon and Washington state are worried about the novel coronavirus spreading through West Coast communities because a growing number of people are being infected despite not having visited an area where there was an outbreak, nor apparently been in contact with anyone who had.

The man who died was in his 50s, had underlying health conditions and no history of travel or contact with a known COVID-19 case, health of-

ficials in Washington state said at a news conference. A spokesperson for Evergreen Health Medical Center, Kayse Dahl, said the person died in the facility in the Seattle suburb of Kirkland.

Dr. Frank Riedo, medical director of Infection Control at Evergreen, said local hospitals are seeing people with severe coronavirus symptoms but it's probable that there are more cases in the community.

"This is the tip of the iceberg," he said.

The health officials reported

two cases of COVID-19 virus connected to a long-term care facility in the same suburb, Life Care Center of Kirkland. One is a Life Care worker, a woman in her 40s who is in satisfactory condition at a hospital, and the other is a woman in her 70s and a resident at Life Care who is hospitalized in serious condition. Neither had traveled abroad.

"In addition, over 50 individuals associated with Life Care are reportedly ill with respiratory symptoms or hospitalized with pneumonia or

Trump seeks high court approval to speed deportations

WASHINGTON (AP)—The man slipped into the U.S. from Tijuana, Mexico, and made it just 25 yards from the border before he was arrested.

A seven-month journey from Sri Lanka was over for Vijayakumar Thuraissigiam. Now he would be able to tell an American official why he had fled the place he had lived virtually his entire life: As a member of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority, he had been beaten and threatened. He would seek asylum to remain in the United States.

His timing couldn't have been worse.

His arrival coincided with the start of the Trump administration and its sustained effort to crack down on asylum-seekers. Officials rejected his claim in an initial screening and he was designated for rapid deportation, or expedited removal as federal law calls it.

Now the Supreme Court

will decide whether Thuraissigiam and others like him can be deported without ever getting to make their case to a federal judge. Arguments will take place Monday.

The administration is seeking a sweeping ruling that it could potentially use to deport millions of people, even those arrested far from the border and who have been in the country for years, experts on the issue said.

"The Supreme Court has held for more than a century that anyone in the United States, even those illegally, are entitled to due process. If successful, the government's argument in this case would reverse this basic principle of constitutional law and theoretically deny due process rights to millions of undocumented immigrants," said Stephen Yale-Loehr, an immigration specialist at Cornell University Law School.

other respiratory conditions of unknown cause and are being tested for COVID-19," Seattle and King County officials said. "Additional positive cases are expected."

Overlake Medical Center in Bellevue, Washington, said a health care worker from Life Care is a patient at the hospital. The woman, who is in her 40s, was admitted to the hospital Thursday and is in stable condition, the center said.

Amy Reynolds of the Washington state health department said in a brief telephone interview: "We are dealing with an emergency evolving situation."

No one answered the phone at Life Care, but Ellie Basham, its executive director, said in a statement that residents and employees are being monitored and those with symptoms or who were potentially exposed are quarantined. The facility has banned families, volunteers and vendors as a precaution, Basham said.

A growing number of cases in California, Washington state and Oregon are confounding authorities because the infected people hadn't recently traveled overseas or had any known close contact with a traveler or an infected person.

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department announced Saturday the case of a fourth person in the county infected with coronavirus. The case is of a woman who is a "household contact" of a person who is hospitalized with the virus, the health department said in a news release.

Yale-Loehr signed onto a court brief siding with the asylum-seeker.

The Justice Department counters in its Supreme Court filings that immigrants have no constitutional rights regarding their application to enter the United States under high court rulings. The limited review that Congress provided for when it created expedited removal proceedings is sufficient, the administration said.

But the federal appeals court in San Francisco relied on the Supreme Court's 2008 decision in favor of court access to detainees at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to rule that the practice of denying federal court review violates the Constitution. The Supreme Court agreed to hear the administration's appeal. Thuraissigiam is living in the New York area at the moment.

Asia

US and Taliban sign deal aimed at ending war in Afghanistan

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—Acknowledging a military stalemate after nearly two decades of conflict, the United States on Saturday signed a peace agreement with the Taliban that is aimed at ending America's longest war and bringing U.S. troops home from Afghanistan more than 18 years after they invaded in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The historic deal, signed by chief negotiators from the two sides and witnessed by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, could see the withdrawal of all American and allied forces in the next 14 months and allow President Donald Trump to keep a key campaign pledge to extract the U.S. from "endless wars." But it could also easily unravel, particularly if the Taliban fail to meet their commitments.

At the White House, Trump told reporters the U.S. deserves credit for having helped

Afghanistan take a step toward peace. He spoke cautiously of the deal's prospects for success and cautioned the Taliban against violating their commitments.

"We think we'll be successful in the end," he said, referring to all-Afghan peace talks and a final U.S. exit. He said he will be "meeting personally with Taliban leaders in the not-too-distant future," and described the group as "tired of war."

He did not say where or why he plans to meet with Taliban leaders. He said he thinks they are serious about the deal they signed but warned that if it fails, the U.S. could restart combat.

"If bad things happen, we'll go back" in with military firepower, Trump said.

Pompeo was similarly cautious.

"Today, we are realistic. We are seizing the best opportunity for peace in a generation," Pompeo said in the Qatari

capital of Doha. "Today, we are restrained. We recognize that America shouldn't fight in perpetuity in the graveyard of empires if we can help Afghans forge peace."

Under the agreement, the U.S. would draw its forces down to 8,600 from 13,000 in the next three to four months, with the remaining U.S. forces withdrawing in 14 months. The complete pullout would depend on the Taliban meeting

their commitments to prevent terrorism, including specific obligations to renounce al-Qaida and prevent that group or others from using Afghan soil to plot attacks on the U.S. or its allies.

The deal sets the stage for intra-Afghan peace talks to begin around March 10, with the aim of negotiating a permanent cease-fire and a power-sharing agreement between rival Afghan groups.

It's perhaps the most complicated and difficult phase of the plan. It does not, however, tie America's withdrawal to any specific outcome from the all Afghan talks, according to U.S. officials.

Pompeo said that "the chapter of American history on the Taliban is written in blood" and stressed that while the road ahead would be difficult, the deal represented "the best opportunity

for peace in a generation."

At a parallel ceremony in Kabul, U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani signed a joint statement committing the Afghan government to support the U.S.-Taliban deal, which is viewed skeptically by many war-weary Afghans, particularly women who fear a comeback of repression under the ultra-conservative Taliban.

Mahathir seeks Parliament vote as new Malaysian PM sworn-in

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad called Sunday for an urgent Parliament sitting to contest the appointment of a former ally as the country's next prime minister under a new Malay-majority coalition that could further split the nation following the collapse of his multiracial reformist alliance.

Muhyiddin Yassin, a seasoned politician who once famously quipped that he is Malay first and Malaysian second, was sworn in at the palace Sunday after getting the support of several opposition parties. That includes the corruption-tainted United Malays National Organization, which was ousted by Mahathir's Alliance of Hope in a historic vote in 2018.

Muhyiddin, 72, pulled his Bersatu party out of the alliance on Monday, triggering its collapse.

Mahathir resigned as prime minister in protest of the plan that would bring UMNO back to power. After a week of political turmoil, the king Saturday said he believed Muhyiddin had the majority support of lawmakers and named him the new leader.

But Mahathir's camp has contested that assertion, saying the 94-year-old two-time prime minister has the backing of 114 lawmakers to return as premier for a third time, surpassing the 112 votes needed for a simple majority.

Mahathir said Sunday that the palace has refused to hear him out. He called for an urgent sitting of the lower house of Parliament to test Muhyiddin's claim of majority support, warning that if this was delayed, his supporters could be induced to support the government of the day.

"People on our side may be offered to be ministers. They may be offered other things," he said.

"We feel we have 114 but after the actions taken by these very rich and very powerful people, we may not have the 114," he said. "So the test of the pudding is in the eating; hold the Parliament sitting now."

The house is only due to resume March 9.

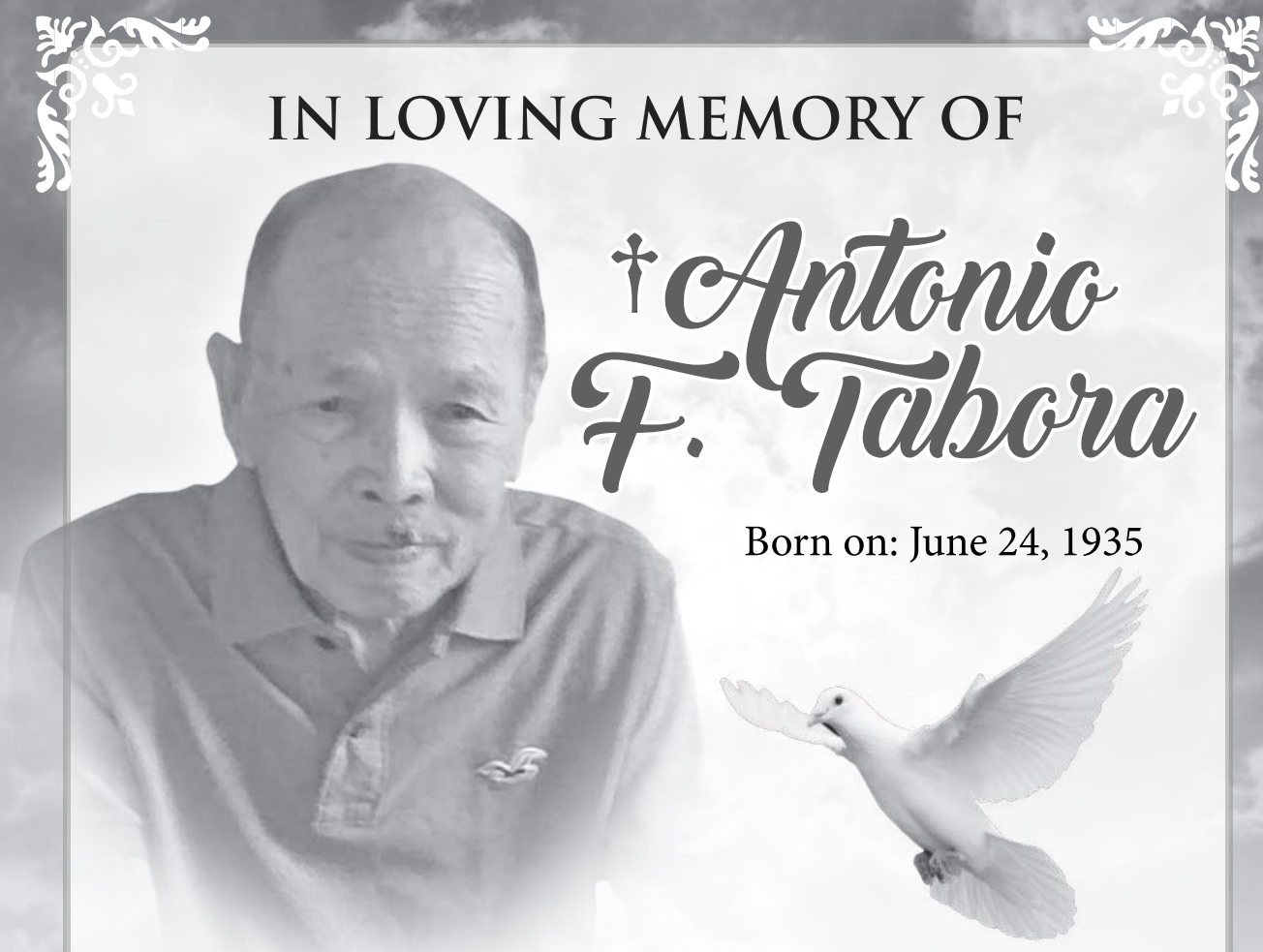
Mahathir said he felt betrayed by Muhyiddin's move and warned that UMNO leaders including ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak, who is facing trial for corruption charges, may get off the hook. UMNO is the biggest party in Muhyiddin's new coalition.

"The court may find it embarrassing to take action against the government. We have seen this happen before during Najib's time when he was able to manipulate the court, change the charges and to a certain extent, influence the decision of the court. I believe if the new government is installed now with Najib in it, this is what is going to happen," he said.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

† Antonio F. Tabora

Born on: June 24, 1935



The family of † Antonio is saddened to inform his friends and relatives that he has been called to be with the Lord on February 28, 2020.

On March 6, 2020 at 7:30am, his body will be escorted from CHCC Morgue to San Antonio Parish Church.

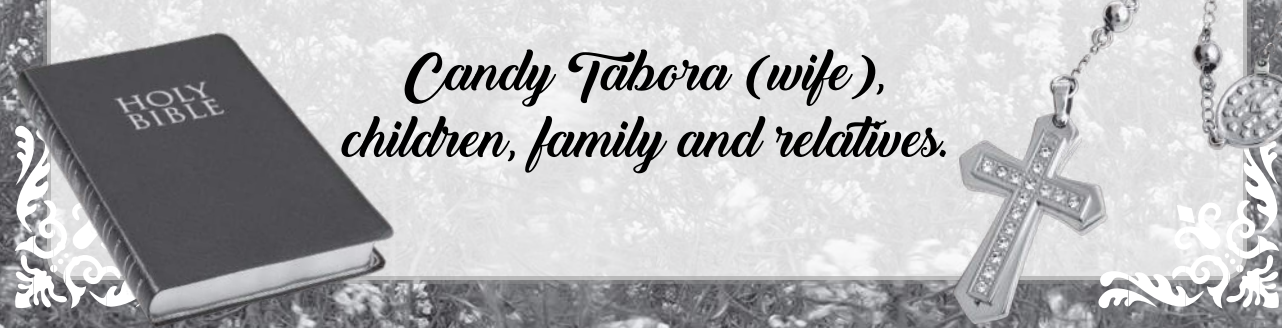
Viewing starts at 8:00am followed immediately by Funeral Mass at 10:00am. His remains will then be transported to Borja Funeral Homes to prepare our dearly beloved † Antonio for cremation.

An appreciation breakfast will be served at San Antonio Parish, Social Hall immediately.

Your thoughts, presence and most importantly your prayers are sincerely appreciated as they helped us on this very difficult time.

Thank you, Salamat po!

*Candy Tabora (wife),
children, family and relatives.*



World

Italy reports virus cases top 1,100, deaths reach 29

MILAN (AP)—Italian tourism officials fear a new virus could do more damage to the industry than the Sept. 11 terror attacks as the number of confirmed cases in the country shot up past the 1,000 mark and deaths climbed to 29.

Authorities reported that Italy's total confirmed cases grew to 1,128, a 27% increase from 24 hours earlier. The vast majority are in three northern regions, all economically productive and among the most visited in the country: Lombardy, Veneto and Emilia Romagna.

Eight more people infected with the coronavirus died since Friday night, all of them elderly and all in the same three regions, according to civil protection authorities.

The increase comes despite strong measures aimed at containing the spread of the virus — including isolating 11 towns with a combined population of over 50,000. Health officials cautioned that the impact of the measures adopted a week ago would not result in slowing case numbers until some 14 days — the period of incubation — had elapsed.

"The cases we are verifying are likely to have been contracted before we adopted these measures," said Silvio Brusaferro, president of the national health institute.

■■■
MEXICO CITY (AP)—Operators of a British cruise ship that was turned away from its destination due to fears of the new coronavirus said Saturday they have chartered planes to ferry passengers home — but don't yet have permission to dock

Socialist hardliner aims gun on Guaidó march in Venezuela

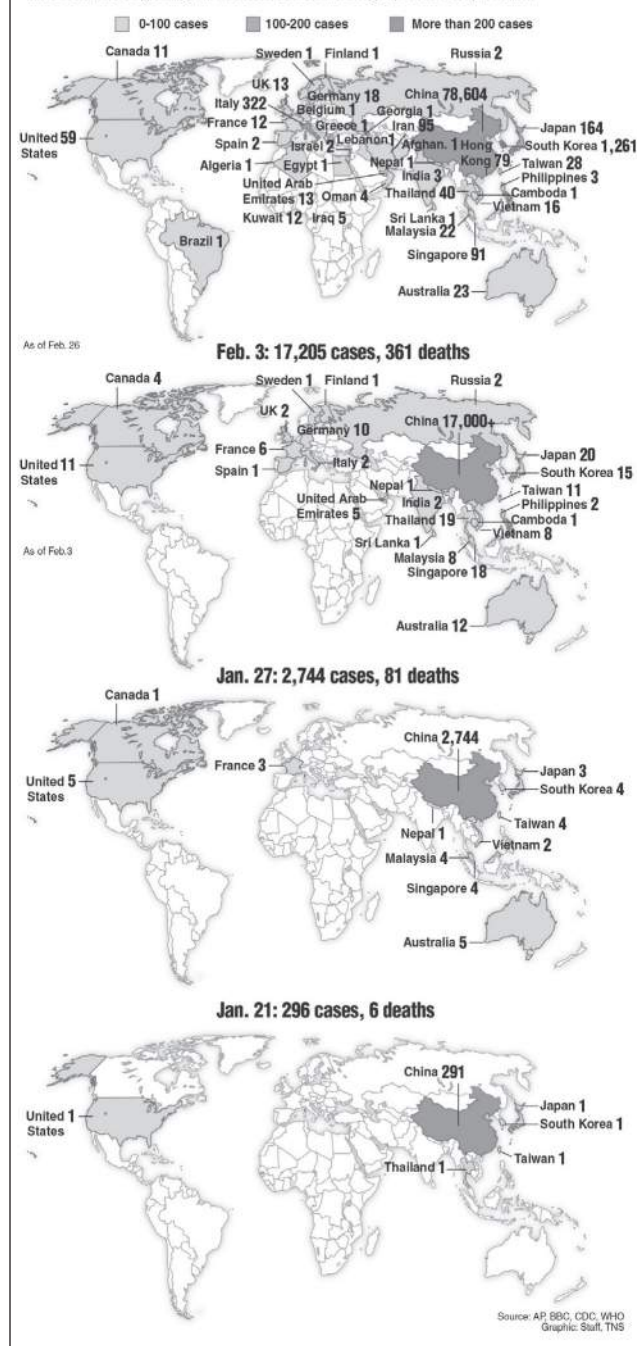
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Socialist hardliners in Venezuela opened fire during a march headed by Juan Guaidó, injuring a 16-year-old demonstrator and adding to tensions in the country as the opposition leader seeks to revive his campaign to oust Nicolás Maduro.

A photo of the confrontation shows a masked man brandishing a pistol pointed toward a group of opposition activists, including Guaidó, who can be seen staring down the unidentified man.

The confusing incident Saturday in the central city of Barquisimeto is believed to be the first time pro-government vigilantes known as colectivos have aimed a weapon at Guaidó, who the U.S. and more than 50 other

Global coronavirus cases rapidly spreading

The new virus, COVID-19, emerged in China in December. Since then, more than 82,000 people have been infected globally, with at least 2,800 deaths being reported, mostly in China.



anywhere.

The Braemar, which had been scheduled to disembark

its hundreds of passengers in the Dominican Republic on Friday, was still cruising

through the Caribbean more than a day later, with no immediate word on where it might wind up.

Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines issued statements insisting that nobody aboard had symptoms consistent with the COVID-19 illness. Dominican officials had refused to allow the vessel into port due to what the company said were "a very small number of influenza-like cases on board."

That left both those aboard the ship and people who had arrived in the Dominican Republic to start a new 14-day cruise aboard the vessel in limbo.

Still, the steadily rising numbers were likely to bring more pressure on Italy's tourism industry, a chief economic motor in a country famed for its world-class museums, archaeological sites, art cities and natural beauty.

A U.S. government advisory urging Americans to reconsider travel to Italy due to the spread of a new virus is the "final blow" to the nation's tourism industry, the head of Italy's hotel federation said Saturday.

The U.S. State Department issued a level three travel advisory — the second-highest level of warning — for the whole of Italy late Friday, saying that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had recommended "avoiding nonessential travel."

More than 5.6 million Americans visit Italy every year, the second-largest national group behind Germans, according to the most recent statistics. They represent 9%

of foreign tourists in Italy, and are among the biggest spenders at an average of 140 euros a day for a collective total of 5 billion euros a year, the hotel federation Federalberghi said.

"We had already registered a slowdown of Americans coming to Italy in recent days," Federalberghi President Bernabo Bocca said in a statement. "Now, the final blow has arrived."

The Assoturismo Italian tourism federation was already warning that the sector that generates 13% of Italian GDP risked collapse from the virus outbreak's impact on travel.

March bookings were down 90% in Rome and 80% in Sicily, Assoturismo said, referring to parts of Italy largely untouched by the virus so far. The industry group estimated that canceled reservations for March would cause 200 million euros in economic damage — and that was before the U.S. upgraded its advice on traveling to Italy.

"This is the darkest moment. Not even September 11 hit so heavily," the federation's president, Vittorio Messina, said, referring to the 2001 terror attacks in the United States.

The Italian government late Friday took action to help the tourism industry, such as delaying deadlines for tax payments and a moratorium on industry mortgages.

The hotel federation's Bocca called the measures insufficient and asked all levels of government to adopt urgent measures to guarantee cash flow to tourism operators to protect jobs and avoid "the collapse of an industry" that operates 300,000 businesses and employs 1.5 million people.

Lombardy, which includes Italy's financial capital Milan, accounts for just over half of the cases while Veneto and Emilia-Romagna have 18% and 20% respectively. Eleven towns, all but one in Lombardy, have been locked down, blocking the movements of more than 50,000 people living and working an hour's drive from Milan.

All three regions have closed schools for the time-being. In Veneto and Lombardy closures also have hit museums, theaters, cinemas and most public offices, emptying urban centers like Milan, where many companies permitted office workers to telecommute.

WORLD BRIEFS

Weary and divided, Israel goes back to the polls

JERUSALEM (AP)—For the third time in under a year, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seeks re-election, and once again the Israeli leader is on the ropes. After two inconclusive elections last year, opinion polls forecast another stalemate—a troubling scenario for Netanyahu who will go on trial on corruption charges just two weeks after Monday's vote. This election campaign has been especially tumultuous. President Donald Trump launched his long-awaited Mideast plan, a proposal that heavily favored Israel and was seen as an election gift to Netanyahu. The Israeli leader, meanwhile, was forced to drop his bid for immunity from prosecution, and just this week, Israel battled Gaza militants in a two-day round of fighting. Monday's election is seen as another referendum on Netanyahu, the country's longest serving prime minister. And once again, the country seems hopelessly divided.

Slovakia's populist opposition wins parliamentary election

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP)—The center-right populist opposition claimed victory in the parliamentary election in Slovakia, ending the reign of the country's long dominant but scandal-tainted leftist party that governed on an anti-immigration platform. According to nearly complete results released by the Statistics Office early Sunday, the Ordinary People group captured 25% of the vote and 53 seats in the 150-seat parliament in a move that steered the country to the right and could make a local ally of France's far-right National Rally party led by Marine Le Pen a part of the governing coalition. "We will try to form the best government Slovakia's ever had," Ordinary People chairman Igor Matovic told a cheering crowd of 2,000 supporters in a sports hall in his hometown of Trnava, located northeast of the capital. Officials measured the temperature of every person coming over the new coronavirus fears. Slovakia hasn't a single case confirmed yet. The senior ruling leftist Smer-Social Democracy party led by former populist Prime Minister Robert Fico was in second with 18.3% or 38 seats.

Health & Wellness

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Vice President Mike Pence peaks during a news conference with President Donald Trump and members of the Coronavirus Task Force at the White House in Washington D.C., on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020.

Lawmakers press health officials on coronavirus preparations

By NOAM N. LEVEY AND JENNIFER HABERKORN
LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Fearful that more Americans may have coronavirus than is known, senior Trump administration officials told Congress on Thursday they are speeding distribution of testing kits to better assess the risk of a widespread outbreak in the United States.

But the assurances from Alex Azar, secretary of Health and Human Services, did not quell lawmakers' criticism that the White House hasn't adequately prepared for a potential public health crisis.

And several Democrats raised concerns that Azar's department did not adequately train or provide necessary protective gear to health workers sent to assist Americans flown back from coronavirus hot zones in China and elsewhere last month and quarantined at Travis Air Force Base and March Air Reserve Base in California.

The accusations of improper safety protocols, including allowing the health workers to leave the bases, were outlined in a whistleblower complaint from an unidentified official in the Health and Human Services Department. In a statement, the department said it was "evaluating the complaint."

Further roiling Washington was a White House move to channel all public comments by federal health officials through the vice president's office. It stoked new concerns that President Donald Trump and his deputies are seeking to withhold crucial information for partisan purposes.

"The American people do not need or want uninformed opinions or spin from its leaders," Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., said Thursday. "They want the truth."

Democrats hammered administration officials at two congressional hearings Thursday, demanding more details on the public health response.

Those demands took on urgency after officials confirmed that a woman in Northern California with coronavirus was not tested for more than week after she was admitted to the University of California, Davis Medical Center.

Wider spread of coronavirus "could have begun yesterday," Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas, angrily told Azar, who testified at a budget hearing of the House Ways and Means Committee.

"The question is whether the administration is moving based on this serious concern, or just putting a happy face on all this, (hoping) it will all go away when the spring flowers come out," Doggett said.

Azar insisted the administration response was well orchestrated and denied any knowledge of inadequate safety procedures at the California military bases.

Testifying before a House foreign affairs subcommittee, Dr. Robert Redfield, who heads the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, sought to strike a balance between reassurance and vigilance.

He said the CDC assesses that the risk of infection "remains low," but

the agency anticipates more so-called community cases, like the patient in California who told authorities she had not traveled abroad or been exposed to someone with the virus.

At this point, her case is the first known infection that was transmitted from an unknown source in the United States. But the extent of community transmission remains a mystery since U.S. public health officials have had limited ability to track the disease.

Lawmakers expressed concern about delays in getting effective testing kits to laboratories around the country after defects with existing lab kits came to light, forcing labs to put testing on hold as the virus spread.

"That was a really, really uncomfortable position to be in," said Scott Becker, who heads the Association of Public Health Laboratories, a trade group.

Azar said more than 40 public health laboratories should be able to use a modified test kit for the new coronavirus, known as COVID-19. He said another test could be sent to 93 public health labs "as soon as Monday."

There were other signs of progress Thursday.

Vice President Mike Pence, whom Trump named Wednesday as his coronavirus response coordinator, appointed Dr. Deborah L. Birx, an expert on HIV/AIDS, to a coronavirus task force, a move that drew bipartisan praise.

Birx, a diplomat who oversees U.S. efforts to combat HIV/AIDS

globally, is a well-respected immunologist who has worked at the Pentagon and the CDC.

On Capitol Hill, senior lawmakers said they are close to a bipartisan deal to boost funding for the public health response, with votes expected as soon as next week. The final total is likely to be more than \$4 billion.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Schumer warned that Democrats won't support a spending package unless Trump is barred from using the money for anything other than coronavirus. The White House has repeatedly sought to use Defense Department funding to build the president's border wall.

The Democratic leaders also said they would insist any vaccines are affordable and available to all who need it.

The conditions reflect distrust between congressional Democrats and the Trump administration, whose mixed messages about the coronavirus threat have appalled many public health experts.

Exacerbating the mistrust, the White House decided that all public communications on coronavirus by federal agencies would be coordinated by Pence's office, according to an administration official.

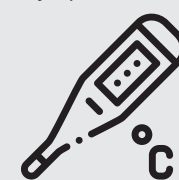
Under other circumstances, the effort to control messaging, which was first reported by The New York Times, might draw little criticism since public health experts emphasize the need for clear and consistent communication in a public health crisis.

Coronavirus prevention

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

Symptoms:

For confirmed coronavirus cases, reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death. Symptoms can include:



- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Headache

Prevention:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



- Stay home when you are sick.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.



- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



- Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of

the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).

Source: CDC

Graphic: Staff, TNS

Life & Style

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

British leader Boris Johnson, girlfriend expecting baby

LONDON (AP)—The patter of tiny feet is coming to Downing Street. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson revealed Saturday that he and his girlfriend, Carrie Symonds, are engaged to be married and expecting a baby in the early summer. A wedding date wasn't announced. Johnson, 55, and Symonds, 31, made history as the first unmarried couple to openly live together at the British prime minister's official London residence when they moved in last year. Symonds, a conservationist and former communications chief for the Conservative Party, which Johnson now leads, was romantically linked to Johnson when Theresa May still served as prime minister. Symonds said in an Instagram post she felt "incredibly blessed".

Iranian director wins prize at Berlin festival in absentia

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Iranian director Mohammad Rasoulof's "There Is No Evil" won the Golden Bear prize Saturday for best picture at the Berlin Film Festival. Rasoulof wasn't there to accept the award due to a travel ban imposed on him by Iranian authorities. "There Is No Evil" tells four stories loosely connected to the use of the death penalty in Iran and dealing with personal freedom under tyranny. The Berlin festival jury led by actor Jeremy Irons chose the film over 17 others competing for the prize, including Sally Potter's "The Road Not Taken," a remake of "Berlin Alexanderplatz," and "Siberia," starring Willem Dafoe and Dounia Sichov. Organizers left an empty chair and name sign for Rasoulof at the news conference for his

entry. Germany's dpa news agency reported that Rasoulof's daughter, Baran, accepted the Golden Bear award on his behalf. The Silver Bear for best actress went to Paul Beer for her performance in "Undine" and the Silver Bear for best actor to Elio Germano for his role in "Hidden Away." Best screenplay went to the D'Innocenzo brothers, Damiano and Fabio, for "Bad Tales."

America Ferrera to depart NBC comedy 'Superstore'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Superstore" is losing its manager—star America Ferrera says she's departing the NBC sitcom after its current season. Ferrera plays the manager of a big box store in the show, which has already been renewed for a sixth season. The actress also serves as an executive producer on the series and has directed several episodes. "The last five years on 'Superstore' have been some of the most rewarding, enriching and enjoyable years of my career," Ferrera said in a statement Friday. The actress became the first Latina actress to win the top comedy actress Emmy Award for her the title role in the series "Ugly Betty" in 2007. She announced on New Year's Eve that she is expecting her second child. "As I start the next chapter for my family and career, I wish only the best, and much continued success, to my beloved 'Superstore' family," Ferrera said in her statement. The season five finale will air on April 18 at 8 p.m. Eastern.

'Amazing Race' suspends filming as virus precaution

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The globe-trotting reality series "The Amazing Race" is taking a breather as a precaution due to the virus out-

break affecting several countries. CBS said in a statement Friday that it had temporarily suspended production and was sending contestants and crew members home as a precautionary measure. Filming on the show's 33rd season was in its early stages. "At this time, no racers or anyone on the production team traveling with them have contracted the virus, or shown symptoms, and we are not aware of anyone being exposed to it," a network spokesperson said in a statement. "Out of an abundance of caution, everyone involved in the show will continue to be monitored when they return home." Nearly 60 nations have reported cases of coronavirus, including China where the current outbreak emerged. China has the majority of confirmed cases and has reported more than 2,700 deaths.

The prince and the pop star work on charity single in London

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry joined Jon Bon Jovi at Abbey Road Studios in London on Friday as the singer recorded a charity single to support the foundation that oversees the Invictus Games—a multinational sports event for sick and injured servicemen. The prince and the popstar greeted each other at the studio where the Beatles recorded a string of iconic albums. Bon Jovi was re-recording his 2019 single "Unbroken" in aid of the foundation that oversees the sporting event founded by Harry. The song was created to shine a spotlight on veterans living with post-traumatic stress disorder. The pair were seen in a recording booth wearing headphones. Bon Jovi had a guitar. "We've been gargling next door, so we're ready to go," Harry told

an engineer. The event is one of the last official engagements being undertaken by Prince Harry, who has announced he is stepping back from royal duties next month.

Boy band BTS performs at NYC's Grand Central Terminal

NEW YORK (AP)—The South Korean boy band BTS performed at Grand Central Terminal in New York City for a special episode of Jimmy Fallon's "The Tonight Show." The band performed their new single "On" with an ensemble of dancers and a marching band for the episode, which aired on Monday. Metro-North Railroad officials told The New York Times the five-minute performance took two months to organize. The crew of about 180 people arrived at Grand Central at about 10 p.m. on Feb. 8. The dancers and marching band rehearsed in Vanderbilt Hall and the North West Balcony rooms while the crew set up their cameras and people left the busy transit hub, said Meredith Conti, Metro-North's manager of special events. BTS didn't set foot on the terminal floor until it closed at 2 a.m., so they could avoid being spotted, said Meredith Conti, Metro-North's manager of special events. They had about two hours to shoot the video before the terminal's cleaning staff arrived to wash the floors. Gavin Purcell, the show's interim showrunner, wrote on Twitter that the episode was "our love letter to this city."

Guests evacuated after boat at Disney World takes on water

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A boat filled with guests at Walt Disney World had to be evacuated Thursday after it took on water. No one

was hurt, and the passengers aboard the Jungle Cruise boat got off the vessel safely after firefighters from the resort's private government were called to the scene, according to Disney World officials. The attraction was opened a short time later. Disney officials didn't say how many passengers were on the boat or what caused it to take on water. A photo posted on Twitter by a passenger showed other passengers standing on seats with water covering the boat's bottom. Another photo showed what looked like a Disney employee standing in knee-deep water on the partially submerged boat. "Our boat on the jungle cruise sank today. Fun times!" tweeted Matthew Vince. The safari-themed boat ride features animatronic animals and wise-cracking boat operators.

A rebel yell: Billy Idol stars in New York anti-idling ads

NEW YORK (AP)—Rocker Billy Idol is the face of an anti-idling campaign launched Thursday in New York City. "Billy never idles, so why should you?" the '80s MTV star growls in a public service announcement intended to shame New Yorkers into shutting the engine off. The platinum-haired British American singer of "White Wedding" led a chant of "Shut it off! Shut it off!" at a news conference announcing the campaign in front of City Hall. City officials said the \$1 million #Billyneveridles campaign will include billboards, TV and radio spots and social media ads. "If you're not driving, shut your damn engine off!" Idol says in the public service announcement. "I mean, bollocks, are you trying to choke us all?" New York City law prohibits idling longer than three minutes, or one minute in front of a school.

'Friends' refuse to leave teen's home when asked

DEAR ABBY: On a recent Saturday afternoon, two of my daughter's 13-year-old friends came to our house. My daughter answered the door, and after being denied access, both pushed their way in.

During their stay, the girls were rude and disrespectful, going through the refrigerator and pantry and helping themselves to whatever they wished. My wife and daughter repeatedly asked them to leave, but the girls laughed and ignored the requests.

What do you suggest in an event such as this without getting physical, as my wife didn't have their parents' phone numbers? (I was away on a work trip during all of this.)

DISRESPECTED IN OUR HOME

DEAR DISRESPECTED: These are "friends"? Your wife should have done what anyone should do when unwanted intruders burst into one's home. She should have called the police, had the girls removed and filed a formal complaint. She should also have reported the incident to the school, gotten the parents' phone numbers and informed them about what occurred so it doesn't happen to her and your daughter or some other family again. And by the way, your daughter should be taught to never open the door unless she WANTS to let someone in.

DEAR ABBY: I have managed to tangle myself in a sticky situation. Two close friends of mine have asked me to be a

bridesmaid in their weddings.

When "Maya," who has been a huge support system for me the past two years through nursing school, informed me that she would ask me to be a bridesmaid as soon as her "gift" for me came in the mail, I yelped with excitement. However, my childhood friends "Lily" and "Byron" are engaged and have formally asked me to be a bridesmaid in their wedding on the SAME DAY that Maya said she would ask me to be in HER wedding.

Unfortunately, I forgot that Maya's date was the same as Lily's, and I told both of these close friends I would stand beside them on their wedding day. How do I decide whose wedding to attend?

DESPERATE BRIDESMAID IN VIRGINIA

DEAR BRIDESMAID: Yes, you ARE in a pickle. Now you must decide who you REALLY want to be with.

Frankly, from what you have written, it seems you are more excited about Maya's nuptials than Lily and Byron's. Technically, you accepted Maya's "almost invitation" before you were invited by Lily and Byron. But you're on your own in determining to whom you're more comfortable giving your regrets and apologies.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of three years got mad at me and destroyed all my late mother's vintage jewelry. It had

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



been in the family for 70 years. He apologized when I returned home, but I don't think he is sincere. What should I do?

STOLEN MEMORIES IN CALIFORNIA

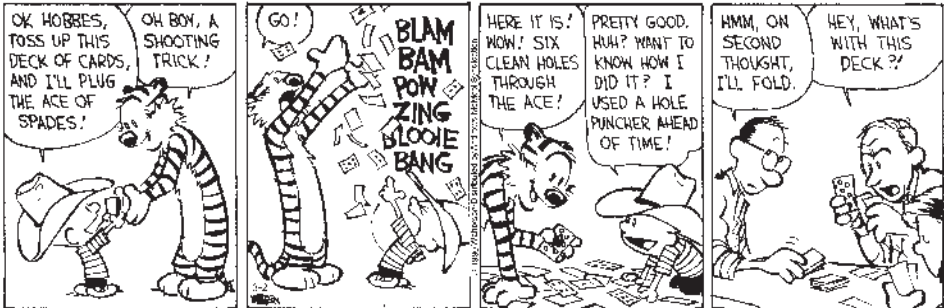
DEAR STOLEN MEMORIES: Your boyfriend appears to have serious anger management problems. What you should do is realize that the longer you two are together, the greater the chances of him damaging not only more of your property, but also even you. Continue this relationship ONLY if he starts anger management classes. If he refuses, end the romance.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

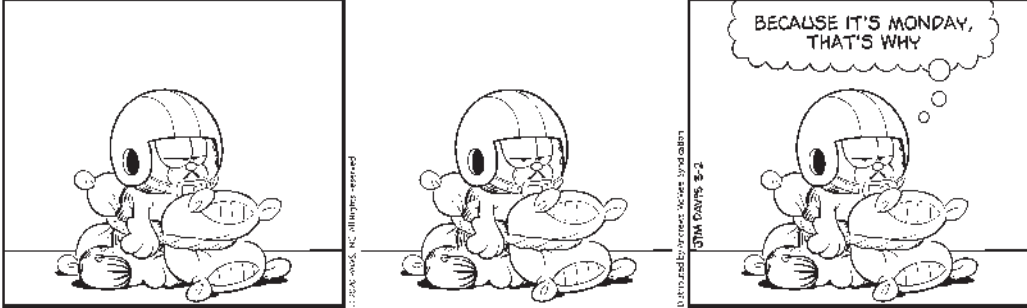
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



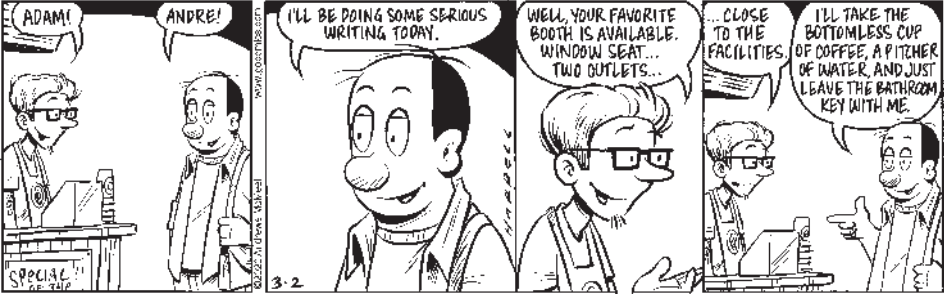
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



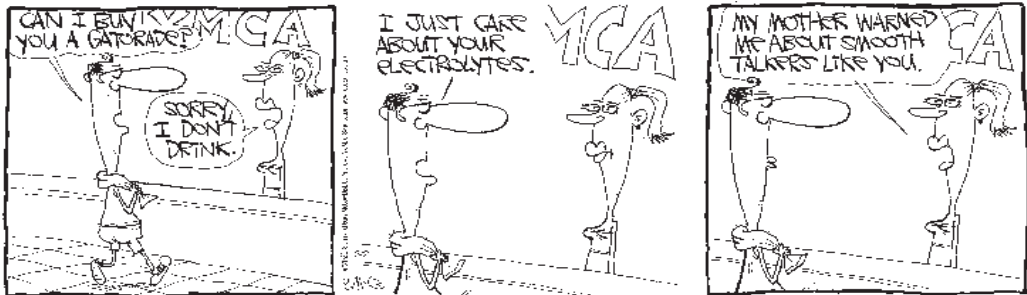
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Ale variety 5 Dig in 8 Robbers' foes 12 Willing 14 Theater award 15 Island off East Africa 16 — Raton, Fla. 17 QB's gains 18 "Honest!" 20 Molten rock 23 Chills and fever 24 "Garfield" dog 25 Eatery with steamers on the menu 28 Marsh 29 What quibblers split 30 Knock 32 Courtroom huddle 34 Skilled 35 Web addresses

36 Outscores 37 Postwar British prime minister 40 Costa del — 41 Test tube 42 Vivid red color 47 Author Wiesel 48 Estrange 49 Animation frames 50 Gym unit 51 Muscat's land

3 Actor Cariou 4 Digestion aid 5 Recedes — carte 7 "Tootsie" actress 8 Spider's creation 9 Bassoon's kin 10 Elite alternative 11 Char 13 Verdi heroine 19 Totals 20 Unruly group 21 Big fusses 22 Leslie Caron role 23 Fake name 25 San Francisco transport 26 Region 27 Finn's floater 29 Roll call reply 31 Score units (Abbr.) 33 Wash- ington airport 34 Presi- dential middle name 36 Dog's treasure 37 With (Fr.) 38 Scrabble piece 39 Shadow 40 Use scissors 43 — -de- France 44 "Kapow!" 45 — standstill 46 Stimp's pal

Solution time: 26 mins.

W E T M A U I R I E A
I M O A I R S E E L S
T O R T I L L A D A S H
N O D S E S T E E
S C A B S B I K E
C O D E C O N G A M E S
A M O V O I D S C R A
R E S T E A S Y B R I G
I S L E B O G G E
Z A G A T O L G A
A L A R I M P O S T O R
P I N A S L A G O N E
S A G S O I L S R O B

Last Friday's Answer 03/02

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bryce Dallas Howard, 39; Method Man, 49; Daniel Craig, 52; Jon Bon Jovi, 58.

Happy Birthday: Control and contain your emotions, and the rest will be simple. Getting into senseless debates is a waste of time. Your intelligence, experience and ability to use your skills to make a difference should be where you focus your energy. Don't limit what you want to do to make someone else happy. Your numbers are 5, 12, 22, 27, 34, 38, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Concentrate on what's in front of you, not what's over and should be put to rest. Aim for comfort, happiness and confidence. Refuse to let emotional issues or pushy, persuasive people pull you into tempting situations that encourage bad habits.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Waffling won't get you to your next destination. Check out something that interests you, whether it's a new job, updating your skills or traveling somewhere you've never been; it's time to set sail and implement change.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take one step at a time. Be aware of what is going on around you. Keep your emotions well-hidden and your opinions to yourself until you feel you can share without jeopardizing your reputation, position or status.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Information is coming down the pipeline. Listen carefully, and it will help you elaborate on your plans. An open mind, coupled with a good imagi-

nation, will help you bring about positive change. Don't reveal your plans prematurely.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Watch and wait. Don't feel you have to make the first move. False information will push you in the wrong direction. Joint ventures will not be as they appear. You are best not to make a risky, impulsive move.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take the plunge, do what's best for you and refuse to let anyone or anything interfere. Don't trust anyone using emotional tactics to push you in a direction that you don't want to go. Take care of your concerns first.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Size up whatever situation you face, and be responsible. Pencil in downtime to help avoid exhaustion and ease stress. Gather facts, and keep the peace using truth, integrity and common sense. Say no to indulgent behavior.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A change of plans will work to your advantage. Go with the flow, and everything will fall into place. Traveling, considering educational pursuits and hanging out with people who pique your imagination and stimulate your mind will lead to a positive lifestyle change.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The past will come back to bite you if you have let matters escalate and emotions take over. Be upfront about the way you feel, and find out where you stand before you take another step forward.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A change at home will be beneficial and bring you joy. Walk away from people and situations that are detrimental to your emotional well-being. Put an end to what isn't working for you. Protect your money, possessions and reputation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make a change to your surroundings that will add comfort and convenience. Don't be fooled by someone who twists information to get you to buy in to something you don't need. Be clear about what you want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take criticism for what it's worth, and use it to your benefit. You control the decisions you make and the changes you want to pursue. Refuse to let a friend or relative ruin your day. Don't share personal opinions.

Birthday Baby: You are adventuresome, independent and alert. You are confident and dedicated.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1 6 9 6 2 7 3 6

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

2 3 4 5 1 7 6 8 9
9 1 5 6 3 8 7 2 4
7 8 6 2 9 4 5 3 1
3 4 7 9 8 5 2 1 6
6 5 9 7 2 1 3 4 8
8 2 1 3 4 6 9 5 7
4 7 2 8 6 3 1 9 5
5 9 8 1 7 2 4 6 3
1 6 3 4 5 9 8 7 2

Difficulty Level ★ 3/02 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SEERSUCKER CLOTHING Solution: 9 letters

X A L E R C H A T S T R O H S
S E C S O C I A L S H T F U T
P S S T B L Y P P E R P M H R
R O T U E L K N I R W M R S I
I O T V O S E I T D E E S H P
N L A C O L O R R R A U C A E
G R I O W C B E I D I A L P H
T P L L E C P P H T S E A T S
W A O L O M S I S U U S A T C
H N R A O L K L A L T T E R C
I T R R E Z A L B E A K E I I
T S B E A C H O L R C M E K R
E D V N E V O W T O P S R S B
T E K C A J U M P S U I T O A
S R E S U O R T N I R P I N F

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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WHATZIT Solution: Point of view

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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US betrayed the

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

FRIDAY DECEMBER 27, 2019

www.saipantribune.com

Rockets nip Celtics in OT to extend streak



BOSTON (AP)—Russell Westbrook scored 41 points and James Harden had 21, including a pair of free throws with 25 seconds left in overtime to give the Houston Rockets their sixth straight victory, a 111-110 win over the Boston Celtics on Saturday night.

Boston rallied from a four-point deficit in the final 20 seconds of regulation and sent the game to overtime on Jaylen Brown's 3-pointer at the buzzer. The Celtics scored the first basket of the extra period and led 110-109 but did not score in the final 2:49 of the game, missing their last six shots.

Robert Covington added 16 points and 16 rebounds for the Rockets, who have won 10 of their last 12 games and beaten Boston five times in a row.

Jayson Tatum had 32 points and 13 rebounds, Marcus Smart scored 26 points and Brown had 22. Daniel Theis had 15 rebounds for Boston, the last in the final seconds of overtime to set up a short baseline jumper that was released after the buzzer before harmlessly swishing through the net.

The Celtics had won 14 of their previous 17 games and could have moved into a tie with Toronto atop the Atlantic Division with a win.

Boston led by as many as 17 in the first half, but the Rockets scored 13 straight points near the beginning of the second to take their first lead of the game 66-64. Boston missed nine straight shots into the fourth quarter and still trailed 102-98 when Westbrook hit one of two free throws with 19 seconds left.

Smart leaned in for a 3-pointer to make it a one-point game, but Westbrook

got away on the fast break and Theis reached out to grab him; they had to go to a replay to determine that it wasn't a clear path foul. The Houston guard hit both free throws to make it 104-101 with 8.1 seconds left in regulation.

The Rockets sent Tatum to the line, where he missed the first free throw. He intentionally banged the second off the front of the rim, and Brown grabbed it at the top of the key before hitting the tying 3-pointer at the buzzer to send the game to overtime, tied 104-all.

Grizzlies 105, Lakers 88

In Memphis, rookie Ja Morant had 27 points and matched his season high with 14 assists and the Memphis Grizzlies snapped a five-game losing streak after beating the Los Angeles Lakers.

Dillon Brooks added 24 points and Jonas Valanciunas had 22 points and 20 rebounds to help the Grizzlies in the race for the final playoff spot in the West.

LeBron James scored 19 points and Anthony Davis finished with 15 points.

Hawks 129, Trail Blazers 117

In Atlanta, Trae Young had 25 points and 15 assists, John Collins added 24 points and 10 rebounds and the Atlanta beat Portland for its second straight victory.

Atlanta, the NBA's worst 3-point shooting team this season, dazzled beyond the arc for the second night in a row. The Hawks shot 42.9% on 42 attempts and have 37 treys in two games. De'Andre Hunter picked up where fellow rookie Cam Reddish left off the night before against Brooklyn, hitting six 3s to score 22 points.



AP
Houston Rockets' Russell Westbrook (0) shoots as Boston Celtics' Semi Ojeleye (37) defends during the first half of an NBA game in Boston, Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020.

Heat 116, Nets 113

In Miami, Kendrick Nunn scored 21 points and the Heat held off Brooklyn.

Goran Dragic added 19 points and Bam Adebayo had 16 points and 12 rebounds to help the Heat win consecutive games for the first time since Feb. 1-3.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 25 points for the Nets. They have lost four straight.

Spurs 114, Magic 113

In San Antonio, Trey Lyles had 20 points and the Spurs overcame a shaky fourth quarter to snap Orlando's winning streak at three games.

San Antonio led by as many as 16 points in snapping a two-game skid but came within seconds of another defeat.

With San Antonio leading 114-113, Bryn Forbes lost the ball in a scramble with 7.5 seconds. Magic guard Evan Fournier raced downcourt and threw up an errant and off-balance layup with 2.2 seconds that Spurs guard Derrick White rebounded and tossed upcourt to run out the clock.

Knicks 125, Bulls 115

In New York, reserve Mitchell Robinson had a career-high 23 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, Julius Randle added 22 points and 10 boards and the Knicks beat Chicago to snap a six-game losing streak.

RJ Barrett finished with 19 points and Taj Gibson had 17 points and eight rebounds.

Zach LaVine scored 26 points and Coby White had 22 for the Bulls.

Pacers 113, Cavaliers 104

In Cleveland, T.J. Warren scored 30 points, Malcolm Brogdon hit the go-ahead basket midway through the fourth quarter and Indiana beat the

Cavaliers.

Brogdon scored 22 points. Domantas Sabonis had his 46th double-double of the season with 18 points and 13 rebounds and also had nine assists. Victor Oladipo, a game-time decision with a sore ankle, scored 19 points.

Cavaliers center Andre Drummond had 27 points and 13 rebounds. Kevin Love had 20 points and 12 rebounds.

Cavaliers center Andre Drummond had 27 points and 13 rebounds. Kevin Love had 20 points and 12 rebounds.

Major League Soccer got its 2020 season under way on Saturday, and there were plenty of exciting storylines and moments to dot the Leap Day landscape.

Most notably, Nashville S.C. got a rude welcome to the league as the debutants were dropped 2-1 at home against Atlanta United. Ezequiel Barco struck just nine minutes in on an exquisite Atlanta counter-attack, delivering a low right-footed shot inside the far post. USMNT defender Walker Zimmerman responded just before the half-hour mark, writing himself into the Nashville S.C. record books with the club's first-ever goal. He rose high to meet a free-kick into the box, and while his header went basically nowhere, he was able to get a foot to it and poke the ball in for the equalizer.

Thrilling storylines, moments in MLS opening

Nashville would be happy to go into halftime level with one of the best teams in the league, but Emerson Hyndman made sure the visitors would enter the break on top, fizzing a blistering volley in for a deserved lead before the break.

Nashville was up for the challenge and had plenty of chances, but each opportunity seemed just a whisker away from being converted. David Accam nearly got to a 53rd minute Dominique Badji cross but his slide was inches away. With 12 minutes to go, Randall Leal smacked the post with a vicious shot.

Unfortunately, while Atlanta held onto the three points, they may have lost far more as talismanic playmaker Josef Mar-

tinez went down in a heap in the 67th minute, immediately pointing to his knee. Replays showed he twisted it awkwardly avoiding a challenge, and while the Colombian tried to come back on, he eventually needed to be stretchered off the field.

Elsewhere, the LA Galaxy went ahead early on the road in Houston on a Cristian Pavon golazo, but they were held from there in a 1-1 draw. Houston actually held the lion's share of possession—59% worth of it—but only managed to put two of its 15 shots on target.

The Pavon goal was brilliantly worked, coming straight from goalkeeper Dave Bingham who blasted the ball down to Pavon, and

the Argentine did the rest, delivering a fabulous curler past Marko Maric.

Houston was able to eventually earn a point, breaching the Galaxy defense in the 54th minute via Mauro Manotas who took a wonderful through-ball from Zarek Valentin and blasted a right-footed effort through a charging Dave Bingham.

Chicharito's debut saw the Mexican international take just one shot, coming from outside the box and missing the target. After the match, Chicharito said scoring early may have actually been a detriment. "Football is ironic sometimes, the worst thing was scoring a goal so early because after that I think we

let them play, build their confidence and then the game became equal." Joe Corona had chances for the visitors past the hour mark, but otherwise neither side threatened much.

USMNT defender Jonathan Lewis gave the Colorado Rapids a dramatic 2-1 victory on the road at D.C. United with a 92nd minute winner. Russell Canouse and Kei Kamara had cancelled each other out past the hour mark, but Lewis was on hand at the far post to tap in a scrappy winner late. Colorado may have missed the playoffs last season, but Robin Fraser has them off to a fast start.

Thierry Henry picked up a win in his first match in charge as the Montreal Impact topped the New England

Revolution in Canada 2-1. Max Urruti won it in the 80th minute with an absurd goal, chipping Matt Turner with a bonkers poke on a long ball from Saphir Taider.

Teal Bunbury had given New England the early lead 13 minutes in, volleying home a cross from deep onto the right flank to put the visitors up, but Romell Quioto cancelled that out before halftime with a set-piece header. It seemed like Wilfried Zaha had put New England up with 17 minutes to go, but after a video review it was chalked off for offside. Then Urruti delivered a stunner to seal Henry's first victory as Impact boss.

The San Jose Earthquakes snatched a late 2-2 draw with finalists Toronto FC thanks to a 95th minute equalizer from Oswaldo Alanis.



Leagues careful on approach to coronavirus

The infectious COVID-19 disease spreading across the globe has officially made its way to the United States. More than a dozen cases have been reported. One, in Washington State, led to death.

It is only a matter of time, experts believe, before the coronavirus spreads further. And only a matter of time, therefore, before worry turns into action. Before social distancing measures are put in place. Before large public gatherings are shut down.

And very few public gatherings, if any, put gatherers at more risk than major sporting events do.

This weekend, tens of thousands of fans will pack into NBA, NHL and college basketball arenas; MLS and XFL stadiums; and MLB spring training parks. At such games, said Bill Schaeffner, an infectious disease expert at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, "People are within 3-6 feet of each other all the time. So there's ample opportunity for viruses to spread."

For that reason, sporting events around the world have already been affected by the coronavirus. Italian authorities have postponed multiple top-flight soccer games, including Sunday's Serie A showdown between Juventus and Inter Milan. Olympic qualifiers of all kinds have been canceled, postponed or relocated. Japanese baseball games and European soccer matches have and will be played in empty stadiums. The Olympics are seemingly under threat.

And so, as the virus spreads to the U.S., Schaeffner said U.S. sports leagues will be "nervous." And they'll be thinking: "Is it responsible to keep having these mass events?"

The NBA, which will play games every day between now and April 15, had a similarly vague statement. Spokesman



AP
MLB's spring training started last month.

Mike Bass said: "The health and safety of our employees, teams, players and fans is paramount. We are coordinating with our teams and consulting with the CDC and infectious disease specialists on the coronavirus, and continue to monitor the situation closely."

The issue is perhaps most pressing in MLS. Both the Portland Timbers and Seattle Sounders host games on Sunday, and again next Saturday. Coronavirus cases have been reported in both Oregon and Washington.

As of Saturday evening, no significant special measures were in place for those games or any others. However, the Sounders said they'd have "additional hand sanitizer stations throughout CenturyLink Field," plus sanitary wipes at concession stands. They're

"maintaining real-time communication with regional health authorities," and participating in both a regional task force and a league task force.

"Major League Soccer has formed a task force to manage the response of the league and its clubs to COVID-19. The task force is comprised of executives responsible for the principal league functions and includes MLS' Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Margot Putukian. The league is in direct contact with the relevant governmental agencies including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Public Health Agency of Canada and is also coordinating with other sporting organizations. The task force has been monitoring the most recent developments and communicating with MLS clubs regarding appropriate measures to take as the situation continues to evolve," MLS said in a statement.

Meanwhile, MLB has been monitoring the virus and consulting with the CDC and HHS, and passing guidance along to its 30 teams. Its season does not start until March 26. But there is a good chance the virus will have spread by then.

The question that will gnaw at league officials: Are they responsible for the health of their ticket-buying fans? If, say, the NBA holds games as planned, and allows fans to make their own decisions with respect to the virus, and droves of game-attending fans contract it, is the NBA in the wrong?

Which leads to the big question: Should sports leagues tell fans not to come? Or allow those fans to choose on an individual-by-individual basis?

dividual-by-individual basis?

"I think in the United States, there will be much more letting people make up their own minds," Schaeffner said. "Here in the United States, we make recommendations. We don't impose requirements so often. So I think there'll be a lot of people being reclusive on a voluntary basis."

As for the players and coaches and team staff, Schaeffner doesn't think playing games in front of fans would put the athletes at risk. "This virus travels, for the most part, within 3-6 feet," he said.

He assumes franchises will, however, instruct players not to sign autographs and interact with fans. Perhaps they'll arrive earlier at stadiums, or via back routes, to avoid coming into contact with fans seeking high-fives or pictures. "You can have all kinds of little strategies," Schaeffner said.

"So there'll be a lot of social discombobulation. And sporting events are mass gatherings. There will be a call not to hold them. There will be a call to not attend them, even if they're not forbidden. Just don't go there. So this is going to have big social, economic, cultural repercussions."

'March Madness should be played sans fans

No sports organization has more to lose over the coming month than the NCAA.

The NCAA, in a statement, said that its Sport Science Institute had recently sent two memos to NCAA members "directing schools and conference offices to Center for Disease Control and Prevention

resources on the issue."

"Otherwise," an NCAA spokesman continued, "NCAA staff continues to prepare for all NCAA winter and spring championships, but we are keenly aware of coronavirus and will continue to monitor in coordination with state/local health authorities and the CDC."

The National College Players Association has concerns over whether the NCAA has taken the proper steps to protect athletes from the coronavirus. In a statement, the NCPA called on the NCAA to protect college players from the virus, even mentioning playing March Madness games in empty arenas as a possible preventative measure.

"In the wake of the emerging coronavirus pandemic, the NCAA and its colleges should take precautions to protect college athletes. They should also make public which actions will be taken and when. Precautions should include cancelling all auxiliary events that put players in contact with crowds such as meet and greets, and press events. Athletic programs should also take every possible measure to sanitize buses and airplanes used to transport players," the NCPA statement said.

"In regard to the NCAA's March Madness Tournament and other athletic events, there should also be a serious discussion about holding competitions without an audience present. Google just cancelled a summit in California and Amazon is encouraging its employees to avoid all non-essential travel because of coronavirus concerns."

Fast times continue to create buzz at scouting combine



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Speed continues to be all the rage at the NFL scouting combine.

And on Saturday, it was the defensive players putting on a track meet.

Linebacker Isaiah Simmons completed the 40-yard dash in 4.39 seconds -- matching the time put up the fastest running back in Indianapolis, Jonathan Taylor, and faster than all but six receivers. The 238-pound Simmons, who played at Clemson, likely cemented himself as a top 10 pick in the April draft.

How fast was he? Sim-

mons opted against taking a second attempt.

Only two other linebackers were ran sub-4.5s. Willie Gay Jr., of Mississippi State, posted a 4.46 and Davion Taylor, of Colorado, had a 4.49.

Simmons wasn't the only one turning heads.

Three defensive linemen finished the 40 with times under 4.70. James Smith-Williams of North Carolina State ran a 4.60, Jabari Zuniga of Florida was clocked at 4.64 and Alton Robinson of Syracuse posted a 4.69.

The bigger linemen were even more impressive.

After weighing in at 308 pounds, Khalil Davis of Ne-

braska ran a 4.75. Meanwhile, 304-pound Neville Gallimore, the second Canadian to play at Oklahoma, had a 4.79.

Davis also posted the second-best bench press total among defensive linemen, completing 32 reps at 225 pounds. Davon Hamilton of Ohio State and had the top mark for the big men with 33—the fourth highest total of the week.

Offensive linemen hold the top three spots through the first three days of workouts.

But two potential first-round linebackers appeared to suffer setbacks after running well.

Patrick Queen of LSU pulled up on his second attempt with what appeared to be an injured hamstring after putting a 4.50-second 40 on the board. And Kenneth Murray, of Oklahoma, stopped on his second run after clocking a 4.52. Murray also is believed to have hurt his hamstring.

NFL Network also reported another possible first-round pick, receiver Laviska Shenault Jr. of Colorado, plans to have surgery on the injured core muscle that bothered him all season.

Defensive backs will work out Sunday—the fourth and final day of the combine.

Djokovic eyes new win streak after Dubai triumph



DUBAI (AP)— Novak Djokovic set his sights on another marathon run of invincibility after capturing his 79th career title on Saturday.

The world No. 1 claimed the Dubai Championships for the fifth time, defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas, 6-3, 6-4 in the final.

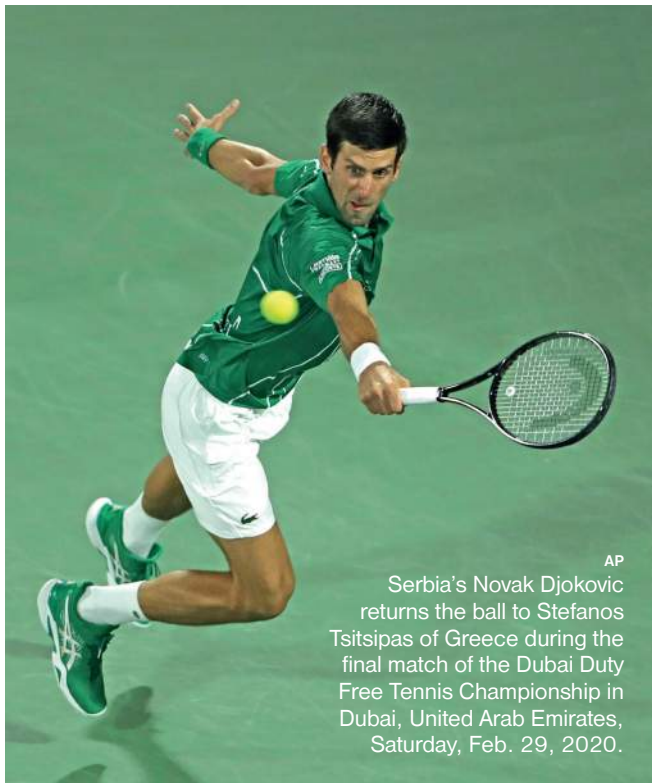
Djokovic is now on an 18-0 winning run this season, and 21-0 overall since late 2019, as he ended an eight-match win streak for his Greek opponent, champion last weekend in Marseille.

Djokovic claimed his third trophy of 2020 after helping Serbia to the ATP Cup and winning an eighth Australian Open.

It is the seventh time that the 32-year-old Djokovic has won more than 20 matches on the trot.

His record is 43 set in 2010 and 2011 with a run of 28 his next best, achieved on two occasions in 2013-14 and 2015.

"This has been one of the best starts of all seasons I've



AP
Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece during the final match of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020.

had. I feel great on the court," said Djokovic. "I'm just grateful that I'm playing well, feeling well. I've won many matches now in a row. I'll try

to keep that run going."

Next up for Djokovic will be the season's first Masters events, back-to-back hard court assignments at Indian

Wells and Miami.

After that will be European clay and an eventual assault on a second French Open title and 18th major.

"Motivation is never lacking," Djokovic said. Of course, I get inspired by the goals that I set. That's why I compete. The season has started in a most perfect way possible. I am aware of the fact that most of the matches that I'm going to play, the

players will not have much to lose. They will go out and try stop the streak."

Saturday's victory, achieved in less than 90 minutes, also saw the Serbian awarded a "golden visa" by the UAE government.

The honor bestows a decade of residency in the tax-free emirate.

"Dubai has been a very important city in my career not just because of the tournament

but because I've been actually coming as a tourist here and using this as a base for pre-season training," he said.

Tsitsipas lost his second straight final in Dubai after going down to Roger Federer a year ago.

"It was close in both sets," added Djokovic. "A few points decided it. I'm most proud of my consistency this week, especially on shots from the baseline."

Kagman JV noses out SIS; Agape prevails

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Kagman High School Junior Varsity is still on top of the team standings in the 2019-2020 Public School System Inter-scholastic Boys High School Basketball League, while Agape Christian School moved up to fourth.

The Ayuyus notched their ninth win in as many games after nipping Saipan International School, 29-28, last Thursday on the north court at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

On the south side, Agape dueled KHS Varsity and eased its way through a 22-11 win. Agape improved its record to 6-2, taking away the No. 4 spot in the team standings

from SIS.

The Geckos, after the sorry loss to the leading KHS JV, turned their ire on Mt. Carmel School 2 for a 31-14 victory. SIS, however, fell to fifth place in the rankings, as it now holds a 6-3 mark. MCS 2 is at the bottom, as it is still winless in seven games.

In other results last Thursday, Saipan Southern High School was handed an easy victory after Da'Ok Academy forfeited their game on the north court, while MHS Varsity prevailed over MHS 3 on the south court, 32-25.

The Manta Rays kept the No. 3 spot with their 7-1 slate, while MHS Varsity is also at the top half of the team standings with its sixth-best 3-4 card.

MHS Varsity and the Manta Rays will cross path tomorrow

when they duel in the first game on the south court. Also scheduled on the same court are the KHS Varsity vs. Da'Ok and MCS 2 against Da'Ok games. On the north side, MHS 3 will face Agape in the first game, while MCS Varsity and KHS JV will square off in the second match in the battle of unbeaten teams. MHS JV and KHS 3 will close out the action on the north court.

STANDINGS

TEAMS	W	L
KHS JV	9	0
MCS Varsity	8	0
SSHS	7	1
Agape	6	2
SIS	6	3
MHS Varsity	3	4
KHS Varsity	3	5
MHS 3	3	6
KHS 3	2	7
MHS JV	1	7
MCS 2	0	7
Da'Ok	0	8

FINALS

From Page 24

in the final five minutes of the second canto.

Down, but definitely not out, Islander mounted a comeback in the third period, as it went on a 10-0 scoring run in the first four minutes and change of that quarter, highlighted by Ken Viray's completed 4-point play. Mintac nearly made it a one-possession game, when he escaped past his defenders, but he babied an open shot and missed.

Shirley's got the ball and Duenas, a firefighter by pro-

fession, drilled a step-back jumper to douse cold water into Islander's fiery run.

Duenas' shot then sparked Shirley's own run, as the team brought its lead back into twin digits after the third period, 63-50. Aranda and Diaz scored 5 points each in that spurt in the closing half of the third frame.

In the fourth quarter, Shirley's padded its lead and this time, Islander failed to make a comeback, as coach Dennis Cortez could not find the right combination on the floor to give their team the final push.

Meanwhile, in the other

semis tiff, the No. 1 seed Blue Eagle took control of its match versus No. 4 The Game in the second quarter and never looked back to join Shirley's in the finals this weekend.

Douglas Schmidt delivered 8 of his 19 points in the second quarter to turn an 18-13 advantage to a 41-27 lead halftime lead. Preston Basa contributed 5 markers, while Jack Lizama and Bart Demapan chipped in 4 points apiece in the pivotal period.

Gino Libuw and Jaymark De Guzman also helped out in Blue Eagle's cause, as they fired 7 and 6 points, respectively, in the third period to keep the team's double-digit spread, 58-42.

The Game never managed to slice the deficit to single digit, as only Arnold Arellano played consistent offense for the losing squad.

First Game

Shirley's 82—Duenas 25, Flores 16, Diaz 15, Aranda 14, Mendiola 7, Sablan 4, Jugos 1.

Islander 65—Viray 18, Mintac 14, Tekopua 10, Quan 5, Sanguyo 5, Mangali 5, Standish 4, Torres 2, Andrew 2, Pastrana 1.

Scoring by quarters: 20-20, 49-35, 63-50, 82-65.

Second Game

Blue Eagle 76—Schmidt 19, Lizama 10, Santos 8, Demapan 8, De Guzman 7, Libuw 6, Manolo 6, Barbo 5, Basa 5, Rasa 2.

The Game 60—Arellano 20, Dayao 10, Sablan 6, Fidelino 5, Factor 5, Javier 4, Torregosa 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-13, 41-27, 58-42, 76-60.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Blue Eagle's Jaymark De Guzman takes an off-balanced shot over the outstretched arms of The Game's Jun Javier during their semis match in the Open Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

VILLAFRIA

From Page 24

leg and 33:36 in the bike for a neck-and-neck race against Robyn Spaeth (12:25 and 31:02) before gaining cushion in the run part after posting 35:04 versus the latter's 39:50.

Sarah Vander Wal completed the Top 3 after registering split times of 11:32 (fastest swimmer in the division), 39:09, and 37:55 for a total of 1:28:36. Sarka Glajchova (1:33:40),

Kathy Ruszala (1:36:44), and Sheila Isla (1:53:25) also finished the course.

In the team event, MV Team, Vitamin C.E., and Tri To Compete led their respective divisions.

MV clocked in at 1:17:26 to down Agape Pegasus (1:17), Civic Boys (1:20:25) and six other squads in the men's category. Vitamin C.E. submitted 1:40:11 to place ahead of Agape Dolphins (1:41:19) in the women's, while Tri To

Compete was the runaway winner in the mixed after timing in at 1:11:04. The seven other teams in the mixed relay event finished the course with times of 1:20:00 and change.

Meanwhile, registration for the Tagaman Triathlon set for March 21 is ongoing. Deadline to signup is on March 18. To register or for more information, check <http://saipantriathlon.com> or <https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=198830>.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the 2020 Sprint Triathlon Tagaman Race Series 3 head into the waters off Kilili Beach during last Saturday's event.



Rockets nip
Celtics in OT
to extend
streak

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune Sports

Leagues
careful on
approach to
coronavirus

PAGE 22



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

24 MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020

Shirley's vs Blue Eagle in finals

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's Coffee Shop's Dennis Mendiola, center, powers his way through the defense of Islander Rent A Car's Ken Viray, left, and Joshua Andrew during their semis game in the Open Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last Saturday Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shirley's Coffee Shop and Blue Eagle arranged their title showdown in the Open Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League after beating their respective semifinals opponents last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Shirley's punched the first finals ticket following an 82-65 triumph over Islander Rent A Car, while Blue Eagle also posted a double-digit winning margin versus The Game, 76-60, in the other semis pairing last weekend. Blue Eagle and Shirley's will dispute the championship this Sunday at

7pm after the 5:30pm finals match in the Masters Division.

Matt Duenas led Shirley's entry into the winner-take-all finale after scoring 25 points against the No. 2 seed Islander. He also drew enough support from his teammates with Gerald Flores, Ed Diaz, and Jack Aranda, chipping in 16, 15, and 14 points respectively. Dennis Mendiola missed scoring in double figures, as he added only 7 markers, but he controlled the boards, paving the way for several easy fast-break baskets for the No. 3

seed Shirley's, while his presence in the paint also intimidated Islander players.

Duenas anchored Shirley's breakaway in the second quarter, as he scored 13 points in that period, including 10 in the team's 18-4 windup. Before the Shirley's rally, the match was once tied at 31-all. Shirley's ended up finishing the first 20 minutes of play with a 49-35 lead, as Islander was held to a pair of free throws and one field goal (all from Mac Mintac)

See FINALS on Page 23



Skipping breakfast and toning up

Ask DRE:

By DRE DELOS SANTOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune and TAGA Sports. He is a personal trainer at Gold's Gym. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK.



Remember how Brennan Huff and Dale Doback in *Step Brothers* decided to start Prestige Worldwide? If that movie isn't on your top list of comedies, we can't be friends. It didn't go so well the first time around as they screwed up big time because they didn't think things through.

When it comes to achieving your physical goals, it's evident that placing an emphasis on the little things rather than shiny objects is going to produce long-term significant changes. Oddly enough, that's not stopping a lot of you from going on another half-baked plan.

Q: Will skipping breakfast help me get in better shape?

A: I don't mean to rub you the wrong way when I say this, but this isn't something you should lose sleep over. There are some folks who do really well omitting breakfast. There are others who do much better having a meal first thing in the morning. If you don't want to eat breakfast, then don't. Both are viable options.

Not getting enough sleep? Heavy alcohol consumption? Instead of pin balling back and forth between fitness dogma, pay closer attention to the stuff that actually matters.

Q: Is there any truth to high reps for toning up?

A: It appears that lifting lighter loads is equally effective as heavy weights for building muscle, as recent research suggests. This raises the question: do you even need to lift heavy?

One thing to consider with this is, if higher rep work has you working well below your threshold, your return is obviously going to be significantly less. In other words, if there's hardly any difference between your first and last rep of a squat or bench press, you need to bump it up. The number one mechanism that causes muscle growth is tension, and you need a sufficient amount of it. This invariably means you need appreciable weight. So, it's worthwhile to vary your rep ranges and keep progressive overload in the mix.

Villafria, Taylor lead finishers in Tagaman warmup



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ronald Villaria and Heather Taylor's strong run pushed them on top of the finishers list in last Saturday's 2020 Sprint Triathlon Tagaman Race Series 3.

Villaria won the closely fought men's event of the last pre-Tagaman Triathlon race after completing the course in 1:21:15, just 16 seconds ahead of Tyce Mister. Nap Dizon rounded out the Top 3 after checking in at 1:22:32.

After falling behind in the



Villafria

750-meter swim (Kilili Beach) and 35-kilometer bike (Kilili/Airport Road/Hyatt/Kilili), Villafria performed well in the 5K run (Kilili to Beach



Taylor

Road Pathway across Monica's Gallery and back)—his strongest suit—as he submitted 35:48, nearly two minutes faster than Mister's 37:26. Vil-

lafia posted 13:33 and 32:54 in the swim and bike legs, while Mister timed in at 11:58 and 32:07 for a total time of 1:21:31. Dizon registered 12:04 in the swim part, was the fastest in the bike at 28:45, but fell behind in the run leg with his 41:43.

Floro Derexes (1:24:01), Russ Quinn (1:24:43), Tony Raho (1:30:53), Thomas Loi (1:31:53), Leo Wania (1:33:39), and Rommel Tio-seco (1:35:33) were the other finishers in the men's race.

In the women's division, Taylor tallied 1:21:01 to beat five other competitors. She recorded 12:21 in the swim

See VILLAFRIA on
Page 23